**Action 14:**

**Bring science closer to citizens**

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| **Action 14: Bring science closer to citizens** |
| Member State/associated country/stakeholder1: |
| Lead entity at national level and contact person1:  *[Indicate the organisation, name, position, e-mail address.]* |
| The action includes the following types of activities:  *[These are examples of activities, in which the country or organisation could participate in. For more detailed information, including the objectives, please refer to the explanatory document(s) of this action.]*   * For outcome 14.1: Participate in the EU-wide rollout of the Plastic Pirates citizen science initiative * For outcome 14.2:   + Encourage cities to apply to become the next European City of Science and promote participation in the activities organised in the context of Leiden 2022 European City of Science, especially TalentON, ESOF and year of events.   + Organise citizen science, citizen engagement and citizen empowerment events in the context of European Year of the Youth and Bauhaus.   + Co-design with the Commission and stakeholders a platform to facilitate exchange of best practices to open up science and innovation to citizens, especially the youth. * For outcome 14.3: Participate in meetings in order to discuss a possible follow-up to a future study on an “EU Science Media Network” to ensure more factual journalistic reporting on science. * For outcome 14.4: Participating in meetings to develop a concept note for a Mutual Learning Exercise and/or a MS/AC-led network of exchange, and appointing a representative for the MLE/network |
| Comments, planned or ongoing activities regarding the implementation of the action[[1]](#footnote-1):  *[Activities at the level of countries or organisations can be shared in this box. The activities could include national measures (e.g. reforms, initiatives, studies), the participation in EU-level activities, which are described in the explanatory document, and the engagement in transnational activities with other Member States, associated or third countries. Moreover, any other comments can be added.]* |

*This document is a working document and should not be considered as representative of the European Commission’s official position.*

EXPLANATORY DOCUMENTS

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| *14. Bring Science closer to Citizens:*  *Scale-up of the Plastic Pirates – Go Europe! Initiative (Action 14 - part 1)* | |
| *Contact point:* John Hanus, RTD B4 | |
| 1. **Description** | *What does the action consist of? Explanation of the problems being addressed, the means used, the objectives to be achieved. Are certain actions already ongoing? Interplay with other actions or policies (EU or national).*  The ERA *Plastic Pirates – Go Europe!* citizen science initiative engages and empowers young people across Europe to monitor and tackle plastic pollution in rivers, coasts and sea. The initiative was first launched by the Trio Presidency of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia who mobilised more than 7,500 young people from around 320 schools and organisations in 2020-21 to sample and analyse plastic pollution of Europe’s rivers and coastal areas. In a next step, the initiative will be rolled out on a European scale in 2022 with support from Horizon Europe for a pan-European sampling campaign to assess the origins and pathways of plastic pollution, improve the scientific understanding of the problem and raise environmental awareness.  The **ERA Policy Agenda** has identified Plastic Pirates as part of the **ERA action “Bring Science closer to Citizens”** for the period 2022-2024. As such, Plastic Pirates will contribute to the key priority area: Taking up together the challenges posed by the twin green and digital transition, and increasing society’s participation in the ERA**.** Already in December 2020, the **Council called, in its Conclusions on the New European Research Area, “***on the Commission and Member States to further develop and implement the “plastic pirates” citizen science campaign as the ERA pilot action to foster “interaction” within the ERA in order to raise awareness among citizens, in particular young citizens, on the impact and benefits of R&I in their daily lives [as well as] encouraging cooperation with the proposed Mission on Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Water”.*  The Plastic Pirates will help to achieve the objectives of the **Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters,** in particular its ambition to prevent and eliminate pollution in European seas and waters, and is included as specific action in its implementation plan[[2]](#footnote-2). The initiative also contributes to key European **environmental policy objectives**, notably the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive and the Zero Pollution Action Plan for Air, Water and Soil. Finally, the campaign will also serve as a showcase example for the **European Year of Youth 2022**.  To support the exchange of best practices and draw lessons for the launch of future citizen science approaches, a **Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) on “Citizen Science initiatives – Policy and Practice”** under the ERA Policy Support Facility will be launched. The MLE will help to ensure good practices and impacts, maximise the relevance and excellence of citizen science, enable environments and sustaining citizen science, and draw lessons on how to scaling up citizen science across the European Union. |
| 1. **Actors** | *Who should implement the action? Member States, Commission, Associated Countries, other 3rd countries, stakeholders, etc.*  *Please note whether half of Member States are already expected to be involved (para. 10 of Council conclusions)*   * The initiative targets **Member States and Associated Countries** to implement citizen science activities in their countries. Participating Member States and Associated Countries will benefit from financial support through an Other Action under the Horizon Europe Mission Ocean and Waters Work Programme 2021 to fund the collection of samples and their analysis, distribution of educational material and communication actions. An informal European Plastic Pirates Interest Group will be set up to connect, collaborate and coordinate among MS and AC. * **Young people and students** will carry out the actual samplingof plastic pollution in rivers, coasts and seas*.* * **Scientists** will verify and analyse the samples. * **Educators** will be empowered to teach young people about plastic pollution through dedicated didactic material. * **Public authorities and researchers** will benefit from increased data on plastic pollution and citizen engagement for a clean aquatic environment |
| 1. **Timing and milestones** | *As far as a calendar can be established already at this stage.*   * Dec 2021: Publication of Other Action ‘Europeanisation of Plastic Pirates’ in HE Missions WP 2021 amendment * Jan 2022: Kick-off Mutual Learning Exercise * March 2022: Proposal for Other Action submitted () * April 2022: Evaluation * 4 May 2022: First meeting of the informal European Plastic Pirates Interest Group * May/June: Expected Start of Other Action (duration 30 months) * September 2022: Expected launch of plastic sampling campaign across the EU |
| 1. **Funding** | *Identification of different sources of funding (EU, national, private, etc.) and if possible projected amounts.*  2m EUR new EU contribution in 2022 through the Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme 2021, as a Grant to Identified Beneficiary. This comes in addition to 2.5m EUR already invested by the three MS of the Trio Presidency. |
| 1. **Expected impact** | *It is important to attempt to identify the expected impacts of the action, even if at an early stage there may be many unknowns.*   * **Contribute to the Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters** and support the implementation and monitoring of EU policy objectives such as the Zero Pollution Action Plan for Water, Air and Soil, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Water Framework Directive. * Raise awareness among citizens on the impact and benefits of R&I in their daily lives, promote ocean literacy and active engagement through formal education, thus **combining** **citizen science, citizen engagement and excellence in research.** * **Engage schoolchildren and young people in research activities**, trigger their interest in scientific work relevant for societal challenges and **empower them to take action** for the protection and restoration of Europe’s rivers and seas. * Allow sampling in rivers and on coastlines across Europe in a harmonised and standardised manner, which will **significantly extend existing data, improve scientific understanding and knowledge** and thus help to develop **systemic solutions for the prevention and elimination of plastic pollution**. * **Support excellent science** and **allow researchers across Europe to draw on open and accessible data** integrated inexisting European data portals. * **Develop and test best practices for implementing pan-European citizen science campaigns** linking both marine and fresh waters, which will prepare the ground for future EU-wide citizen science campaigns in support of the European Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030. * **Increase transnational cooperation in citizen science** and at European level to empower citizens to act to eliminate pollution and restore our ocean and waters. |
| 1. **Monitoring** | *Qualitative and quantitative elements that allow progress in the implementation to be monitored. Once the policy platform is operational, Member States and Commission will be able to use it for this purpose.*  Quantitative indicators:   * Number of Member States and Associated Countries participating in the initiative. * Data sets collected and uploaded into a common portal * Number of students and young people engaged in the initiative * Peer-reviewed publications   Qualitative indicators:   * Increased awareness of plastic pollution and its environmental and human health risks * Changes in attitudes and behaviour on plastic pollution |
| 1. **Communication** | *What communication actions could be useful to promote the action, and who should to so (Commission, national public authorities, stakeholders, etc.)?*  Communication activities to be carried out by the European Commission, the Member States and participation organisations:   * Social media campaigns * Advertising campaign through radio, TV, specific social media tools * Daily magazines, newspapers * Scientific journal articles and presentations at conferences * Newsletter |
| 1. **Additional information** | ---- |

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| **Action 14. Bring Science closer to Citizens**  *European Science in the City (Action 14 - part 2)* | |
| *Contact point: Justyna Ciruk (RTD A.3), Slaven Misljencevic (RTD A.3)* | |
| 1. **Description** | **RATIONAL**  The **engagement of citizens**, local communities and civil society will be at the core of the new ERA to achieve greater societal impact and increased trust in science.  Building on the key role of science during the COVID-19 pandemic, Member States, research organisations and industry should involve citizens in societal update of technology choices. To achieve this, leaders of R&I institutions, funders and policy makers need to agree on principles, recommendations and good practices for incentivising and rewarding citizen participation to promote trust and facilitate the uptake of science, technology and innovation.  The ERA will enhance the communication to the broader public, and young generations in particular, on science addressing the twin transition and promote participatory actions concerning the transformation of our economy and society. It is also important to include the groups at higher risk of exclusion, such as persons with disabilities and older persons, their representative organisations and groups with limited, or no contact to science to address critical issues related to their low involvment or exclusion in the research.  To create stronger public understanding, connection and engagement should be promoted through regular citizen science campaigns and education and training activities. New R&I solutions need to be co-designed and co-implemented in consultation with citizens to ensure that there is societal uptake of these new solutions and approaches. One of the main goals is to strengthen the trust in the various ways society is influenced by science and, on the other hand, how science is influenced by choices, dilemmas and responsibilities that arise in society. There is scope for opening up science and innovation to Europeans in their cities, regions and countries.  It is important to pursue in all relevant initiatives a high involvement of early-career researchers, as they represent the future European researchers. Making research careers popular and appealing for the younger generations, will attract more people to research careers, to the benefit of the R&I system in Europe and of the labour market demand for highly skilled talents.  Finally, the European strategy for universities (Commission communication, 18-01-2022) proposes to organise an annual European Talent Fair bringing together students, early career researchers, scholars, start-ups, industry and investors promoting talent, business and job opportunities across the EU, starting with the European Science in the City in Leiden 2022.  **OBJECTIVES:**  The Commission will organise with Member States and stakeholders EU-wide participatory science campaigns to raise awareness and networking, crowdsourcing platforms and pan-European hackathons, in particular in the context of Horizon Europe Missions. The Commission will develop with the Member States best practices to open up science and innovation to citizens, especially the youth.   * To create a platform on which everyone who wants to share their opinion, skills and knowledge about science, technology, innovation, art can participate, thus establishing new connections between science and society in innovative, open, playful, and sincere ways; * to celebrate the richness and diversity of the European scientific landscape; * to enhance the European and international profile of the scientific community in a particular city or region; * to foster mutual learning, scientific integration, interest for science among younger generations and the development of a borderless European research community across the continent; * to increase engagement of citizens with the scientific community locally, and * to set a paradigm for more European cities and to leave a legacy with their innovative approach.   **ONGOING AND FUTURE ACTIONS**  The actions will be organised into two strands: firstly, a pilot will take place in 2022 in order to develop a sustainable concept for any future editions. Afterwards, a second strand (2023-2024) will consist of a call for expression of interest for the future actions based on lessons learnt from the pilot.  **STRAND 1 – Leiden 2022**   * Leiden will **pilot** the first **year-round** European City of Science (ESC). The main reason for extending the programme to a full year is to **bring science and society closer together.** * The overall programme consists of four main components which together shape the **Leiden European City of Science in 2022**:  1. **A year of events** consisting of science activities throughout the year organised around 22 main themes and related events/activities for 365 days including the initiative ‘Knowledge throughout Neighbourhoods’; 2. the **European Young Scientists Contest (EUCYS)** targeting 14-20 year olds with a passion for STE(A)M; 3. a **European contest for young and early career researchers** (working title ‘EU TalentON’) that will become part of the EU Talent Fair announced in the European Strategy for Universities; and 4. the **EuroScience Open Science Forum (ESOF**).  * Leiden2022 aims to   + develop a **generic and sustainable model** for the European City of Science title, which fosters sustainable relationships between scientists and citizens and   + provide a **convincing concept** to serve as a blueprint for future editions. * The ECS label intends to **celebrate the richness and diversity** of the European scientific landscape. It enhances the European and international profile of the scientific community in a particular city or region, **increases engagement of citizens** with the scientific community locally, triggers public investments in regional scientific infrastructures and boosts tourism. Moreover, it aims to foster mutual learning, scientific integration, interest for science **among younger generations** and the development of a borderless European research community across the continent. * Leiden European City of Science is a unique opportunity to bring together all of society to discuss research and innovation and for all parts of society to share ideas and work to improve how research and innovation is conducted. It brings together multiple stakeholders, disciplines, sectors and participants from across the globe. Its sheer scale, size and amazing innovation make it a paradigm for the European research and innovation community. * Leiden2022 will range from small, local activities to large, prestigious events with an international appeal. Within this 365-day programme, the entire knowledge spectrum will be covered, from fundamental science to public engagement with science   The action will continue to build on the existing legacy of well-established activities, such as:   * The EU Contest For Young Scientists (EUCYS) was initiated in 1989 when European Commission president Jacques Delors took up the challenge from Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands of organising the Europe-wide student science fair. Philips has organised this annual event since 1968, but felt the time had come for the European Union to take on the organisation after 20 successful Philips Contests. It will be its 33rd edition in Leiden. * The EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) created by EuroScience in 2004, is the largest biennial interdisciplinary meeting on science and innovation in Europe, for and with society. ESOF brings together over 5000 leading thinkers, innovators, policy makers, journalists and educators from more than 90 countries, to discuss current and future breakthroughs in contemporary science. ESOF is one of the best opportunities for everyone from leading scientists, early careers researchers, business people, policy makers, science and technology communicators to the general public to come together to find out more about how science is helping us advance today.   **STRAND 2 - 2022-2023 – Scale up in other MS & cities**  Building on the new implementation model for the European City of Science initiative, piloted by Leiden, a scaling-up of the concept across Members States will be explored with interested cities. To ensure that all relevant lessons from the pilot are captured, an assessment of the Leiden 2022 activities, their implementation, outcomes and the experienced bottlenecks will be carried out. The findings will serve to finalise the concept so that in the following years it can be rolled out in multiple cities across the Union. Sustainability of a comprehensive European Talent Fair with EUCYS and TalentON contests will be explored as well as other activities that could be commonly implemented by the participating cities.  **LINKS TO OTHER POLICES:**  Each component, especially EUCYS and the European contest for young and early career researchers, will be aligned to the **European Year for the Youth**. Moreover, this action will contribute to the implementation of the **European Strategy for Universities** in particular for the European Talent Fair.  The European Science in the City initiative will liaise and exchange knowledge on best practises from other initiatives such as the European Researchers’ Night and EU SciShop.  The European Science in the City also lends itself for bringing important policy initiatives closer to society and citizens, such as the missions, partnerships, European Universities and the **European Bauhaus**.  Leiden European City of Science 2022 has been selected as one of the first 139 partners of the **New European Bauhaus**. With this programme, the European Commission is building an interdisciplinary movement for a sustainable, inclusive and beautiful Europe. The question of how we shape the future is central in this context. The partnership with New European Bauhaus fits the ambition of Leiden2022 to build bridges between science, culture and society.  The **New European Bauhaus** is an important step forward for the European Green Deal, with which the Von der Leyen Commission aims to make the continent of Europe climate-neutral by 2050. Concerted efforts by all Member States must prevent climate change and biodiversity loss from threatening our environment. New European Bauhaus challenges everyone to reinvent themselves in direct interaction with science, the creative sector and society. This European project aims to shape the living environment of the future: sustainable, inclusive and aesthetically sound. "In addition to an ecological and economic boost, it is also a new European cultural project," said European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. |
| 1. **Actors** | ***Target Groups:***   * Scientific Community * Universities’ students, researchers, academics, European University alliances * Schools: students and teachers * The general public (citizens, society) * Non-governmental organisations * Potential donors * Industry, investors * Associations for universities, researchers, research organisations * Media * Policy makers and cities representatives (covenant of mayors)   **STRAND 1 - European City of Science Implementation**: the EC, Leiden city, universities, EuroScience, Leiden2022[[3]](#footnote-3)  **STRAND 2** – EC, MS, cities across EU |
| 1. **Timing and milestones** | **STRAND 1 – Leiden 2022 pilot**   * 1 January to 31 December 2022: a year of events * 22 January 2022 – Official Opening EU City of Science * 17 June to 17 July 2022 – European Science in the City festival * 13 to 16 July 2022 – ESOF * 12 to 18 September 2022 – EUCYS, TalentON,  1st edition of the European Talent Fair   **STRAND 2 – 2022-2023 – Scale up in other MS & cities**   * Q1 2022 – concept development for the involvement of other cities including exchange of best practices at national level * Q2 2022 – call for expression of interest by the cities in all MS * Q4 2022 – selection & announcement of next European Cities of Science * Q1 2023 – lessons learnt from Leiden 2022 * Q3 2023 – 2nd edition of European Talent Fair in different cities incl. EUCYS & TalentON |
| 1. **Funding** | **STRAND 1**  These activities will be supported by Horizon Europe Work Programme ‘Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area’ via two grants to the Leiden2022 team for a total of EUR 4 million as follows:   * Grant to identified beneficiary of EUR 2.00 million for European European City of Science (ECS) and EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF). * Grant to identified beneficiary of EUR 2.00 million for EUCYS and TalentON.   **STRAND 2**   * A future funding to be envisaged from Horizon Europe Work Programme ‘Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area’ 2023-2024. * Overall investment strategy to be defined with MS as part of a broader ERA Policy investment targets, including synergies with structural funds and recovery and resilience plans. * Co-design with the Member States and stakeholders a platform to facilitate exchange of best practices. |
| 1. **Expected impact** | **STRAND 1**  Leiden European City of Science 2022 will address four main pathways towards impact:   1. **bringing science and society closer together;** 2. fostering innovation and stimulate ideas for new research topics by stimulating scientific exchange; 3. creating an ‘established’ and sustainable label for European City of Science; and 4. establishing Leiden as a City of Knowledge   At **the heart of the ambitions of ERA lies stimulating young talent and (early) research careers**. It is clear that the set-up of the EUCYS & EU TalentON & Talent Fair is rooted in the same ambition:   * to raise *awareness* (of the general public) and *communicate* the positive results of the young scientists to put them in the spotlight in order to **generate awareness on the importance of scientific and technological innovation in society** and motivate other young students and researchers all over Europe; * to stimulate exchanges between talented young scientists, ensure that young scientists get guidance from some of the most prominent scientists in Europe and eventually to **highlight scientific student achievements and attract widespread media interest**. In other words, providing additional stimulus to young people who have an already demonstrated interest in applying science to solve problems; * to present science and technology as an appealing career option for future students and researchers and * to share new scientific findings and insights from projects and participants (especially among the next stage and early career researchers).   **STRAND 2**  The Commission strives for **citizen science, citizen engagement, citizen empowerment,** open science, and inclusive science. It is not about science and society, but about **science with society**.  Bringing science and society closer together is one of the key impacts. The dialogue with citizens on science will be enhanced and thoughts on science and its role on society will have been exchanged.  Showing that science is a collaborative effort between science and the broader society, and that scientific openness is of the utmost importance to building excellent science and trust in science.  It is important that such benefits reach as many citizens as possible. Therefore, the number of cities engaging with like-minded activities building on the experience and practices already in place will scale up the impact on our society more broadly. |
| 1. **Monitoring** | **STRAND 1:**   * In terms of general reach of ECS2022, Leiden2022 expects to involve more than 500.000 participants throughout the year. * In 2022 at least 8 conferences, a minimum of 200 days of activities and 200 (scientific) lectures to be held. * For ESOF2022 in particular, to welcome more than 5000 delegates from more than 50 different countries, both on-site and online. * **High participation rates of citizens in the ECS2022 programme,** including groups which are normally less likely to attend science events. * **Automated statistics on attached events around EU.**   **STRAND 2:**   * Gathering **+20 applications** in the call for expression of interest from the cities that will become next European Cities of Science. |
| 1. **Communication** | **STRAND 1**  Strong emphasis will be placed on both awareness-raising and communication measures. Leiden2022 will ensure exchange and-wide spread (inter)national attention by developing a tailor-made communication and promotion strategy in cooperation with national and international media to gather public interest. It will provide for sufficient communication (in the media) on the events to maximise the visibility of ECS2022 as a whole and stimulate discussion and participation.  The communication activities need to take place on different levels and that will be aligned and coordinated between the EC and Leiden2022 team to maximise the impact.   * Creation of a **visual identity** of ECS (logo, templates for documents etc.). * Creation of a **website**. * Promotion of ECS through a targeted campaign on different **media**: press, television, radio and internet. * Branding of EU **Social media** channels in co-operation with European Commission. * Publishing of **press-releases**, for online and printed publication (through newspapers). * **Publications**: a tear-off yearly calendar with 365 days of science * Related **Events**; launch, press conferences, official opening etc.   Example: Leiden **QR code logos** – can be generated for other initiatives and twinned to Leiden European City of Science and included in Leiden2022 website.  **Launch of house style, website, and tear-off calendar.**  The Leiden European City of Science's brand new house style and website is all about curiosity. **Each activity has a unique QR code** that directs visitors through a virtual peephole to the appropriate page on the website. The QR logos are surrounded by colorful designs, creating a sea of ​​flowers or a dazzling kaleidoscopic vision.  European Year of the Youth and Bauhaus are closely interlinked as both initiatives aim to develop activities where citizens and end-users are not only asked to identify relevant challenges, but also empowered to co-create together potential solutions in an ideation process.  European Year of the Youth (EYY) own communication tools will serve as a great multiplier of the European Science in the City (ESC) activities. For instance via the EYY portal (website) News item sections, the youth-related highlights from Leiden 2022 (such as EUCYS and TalentOn) will be published. The EYY event calendar and map will promote ESC events targeted to youth audience. The communication actions will be design to spark synergies between EYY and ESC.  **STRAND 2:**  *There will be dedicated communication for consultation events.* |
| 1. **Additional information** | https://leiden2022.nl/  https://europa.eu/youth/year-of-youth\_en  https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/eucys\_en  https://www.esof.eu/ |

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| **Action 14. Bring Science closer to Citizens**  *Feasibility analysis for a federated “EU Science Media Network” to ensure more factual journalistic*  *reporting on science (Action 14 - part 2)* | |
| *Contact point: DG R&I.A.2.* | |
| 1. **Description** | Science communication not only informs the public about facts and scientific evidence but also illustrates the broader research process and the impact of its results for society. The spread of disinformation and fake news prevents the public to make informed decisions based on facts and scientific evidence. The problem of misinformation has been especially exposed during the world-wide pandemic. While it highlighted the importance of science for society, parts of society started to question scientific methods and results. Thus, it is important to ensure more factual journalistic reporting on science.  The 2020 Council conclusions on the new ERA “call on the Commission and the Member States to establish a European policy approach on science communication, considering a federated “EU Science Media Network” that offers access to up-to-date scientific insights on contemporary topics to the European public”. This has been taken up as an outcome of action 14 in the first ERA Policy Agenda, in the form of a feasibility analysis for a federated “EU Science Media Network” to ensure more factual journalistic reporting on science.  To achieve this outcome, a study as part of the WIDERA part of the research framework programme could be considered to further explore the possibilities of establishing an “EU Science Media Network”. |
| 1. **Actors** | This action outcome was first mentioned in the ERA Action Priorities in the 2020 Council conclusions on the new ERA. Member States proposed the outcome to be included in the first ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24 and thus there should be interest by some Member States in the implementation.  Additionally, there could be interactions with other services working on Disinformation, such as the Commission’s Disinformation Network, as well as the European Science-Media Hub, set up by the European Parliament to create a network between scientists and media to make information available to journalists, media and citizens. |
| 1. **Timing and milestones** | * First semester 2022: Debate between interested members of the ERA Forum * Second semester 2022: Propose a call for the feasibility analysis to be included in the WIDERA research framework programme 2023-24 * After the feasibility study: discussion of possible follow-up actions |
| 1. **Funding** | *Identification of different sources of funding (EU, national, private, etc.) and if possible projected amounts.*  Funding for a study could be foreseen within the 2023-24 WIDERA research framework programme. |
| 1. **Expected impact** | * Study on the feasibility for a federated “EU Science Media Network” |
| 1. **Monitoring** | TBC following discussion at the ERA Forum |
| 1. **Communication** | TBC following discussion at the ERA Forum |
| 1. **Additional information** | --- |

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| **Action 14. Bring Science closer to Citizens**  *Propose a policy coordination mechanism on public engagement practices, including citizen involvement in scientific processes**(Action 14 - part 4)* | |
| *Contact points: DG R&I.A4*/Georgios Papanagnou/Michael Arentoft *and DG R&I D4/*Nora Allavoine/Katja Reppel | |
| 1. **Description** | [*Scope*]  The action consists of putting together a proposal for a mechanism that will support the mutual learning and the formulation of common policy recommendations on good practices for engaging the public in the ERA.  Public engagement include the engagement of citizen groups and civil society in:   * co-design activities to develop R&I agendas, e.g. involvement in discussing challenges and implications related to research and technology development; * co-creation activities, such as citizen science, to develop new knowledge or innovations, e.g. involvement in data collection and data analysis; * co-assessment activities, such as experimentation and evaluation, to help ensure interaction on the quality and utilisation of R&I outputs; * activities following through to innovation deployment and uptake and use of R&I outputs.   Mutual learning and common policy recommendations are the target outcomes of the action – seeking coherence between policies and initiatives across the ERA, between countries and between national and EU levels.  [*Problem*]  Today, ERA countries are at different stages of policy development for public engagement in R&I – from national strategies in place since years, to no specific strategy.  There has been little sharing of information, experience, lessons learned and good practices in public engagement in R&I across the ERA. When practices have been shared, their replication/transfer is not straightforward due to differences in national/sub-national systems and processes.  Furthermore, there are issues in following through from public engagement in research actions to public engagement in deployment and uptake actions, as well as in policy development.  Finally, success in stimulating public engagement practices also depends on related research policy developments and framework conditions, such as incentives and rewards schemes, institutional and infrastructural support, training, skills development and competence building for researchers.  [*Objectives*]  A step change in sharing and debating experience and good practices should lead to greater mutual learning and common policy recommendations.  This would make national and European policies and initiatives for public engagement in R&I sharper and more impactful, as policy makers see what framework conditions need to be in place, what actions have worked and what have not worked in other countries, and what strategies and actions could be transferrable.  It could also lead to greater coherence and possibly more synergies, especially for initiatives that cross borders and/or cross disciplines, or for considering when initiatives could benefit from scaling up to transnational or European level.  Finally, it could lead to better leverage of what is done in research policy for more engagement of societal actors, on what is done in sectoral policy areas, in their deployment programmes, and in their actions for ensuring uptake of innovation, and also for stimulating behavioural changes.  *[Means used]*  The first discussion in the ERA Forum on this Action identified two possible means of implementation, both leading to mutual learning and common policy recommendations:   * A Mutual Learning Exercise (MLE) under the Horizon Policy Support Facility (PSF) that aims to identify good practices, lessons learnt and success factors between several volunteering countries. It combines learning between peers and expert advice and assistance. The MLE would have to be complementary to the discussions and outcomes of the ongoing MLE on Citizen Science. * A MS/AC-led network of exchange, connecting those responsible for policies for public engagement in R&I at national level, to share information on the latest developments at national level, to discuss differences and similarities, and seek synergies and collaboration.   Both means of implementation are activated by a proposal from one or more MS/AC, typically in the form of a concept note, developed in collaboration with interested ERA Forum members.  The concept note would suggest the objectives, scope, priority topics, focus areas and targeted outcomes, as well as the working approach. Links with Horizon EU Mission areas were suggested as possible ways to prioritise and focus and/or as case studies. Importantly, stakeholders must also be involved, both for contributions and for learning.  *[Relevant ongoing actions]*  The concept note should take account of a number of ongoing actions, initiatives and platforms, notably:   * National initiatives on public engagement in R&I * [Citizen Science MLE under the PSF](https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/0a6fd355-a34e-11ec-83e1-01aa75ed71a1) (January-December 2022) * [COST action on Citizen Science across the ERA](https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA15212/) * [‘Plastic Pirates – Go Europe’ initiative](https://www.plastic-pirates.eu/en) * [EU-Citizen.Science platform](https://eu-citizen.science/) * [ECSA-European Citizen Science Association](https://ecsa.citizen-science.net/); [EUSEA-European Science Engagement Association](https://eusea.info/); [ECSITE-European Network of Science Centres and Museums](https://www.ecsite.eu/); [EUPRIO-European Association of Communication Professionals in Higher Education](https://www.euprio.eu/); [Falling Walls Engage](https://falling-walls.com/engage/) * [JRC Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy](https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/participatory-democracy_en) * [Conference on the Future of Europe](https://futureu.europa.eu/?locale=en) |
| 1. **Actors** | Interested MS/AC, with input from the ERA Forum including the EC and stakeholders such as universities and other research performing organisations, should draw up a concept note for an MLE or a network of exchange.  A proposal for an MLE is first discussed with the EC’s PSF Team (to clear budget and timing issues) and then presented to ERAC Delegates with an invitation for feedback and nomination of national representatives. Implementation involves nominated national representatives, stakeholders such as universities, research institutes and CSOs, experts and public engagement knowledge centres, and the EC. |
| 1. **Timing and milestones** | 2022: Concept note finalised and presented to ERAC / interested MA/AC.  2023: Mutual Learning Exercise / MS/AC-led network of exchange launched. |
| 1. **Funding** | An MLE would draw on the 2023 budget of the Policy Support Facility, financed from the WIDERA Work Programme under Horizon Europe. |
| 1. **Expected impact** | * Greater mutual learning and common policy recommendations * Sharper and more impactful national and European policies and initiatives * Increased coherence and more synergies, especially for initiatives that cross borders * Better leverage of societal engagement in research on initiatives in sectoral policy areas for effective deployment and uptake |
| 1. **Monitoring** | Following the launch of an MLE / MS/AC-led network of exchange in 2023, first sets of common policy recommendations should emerge later in 2023/2024, as well as new/enlarged initiatives involving public engagement practices as a major objective. |
| 1. **Communication** | To be completed. |
| 1. **Additional information** | --- |

1. Please fill in these boxes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/research\_and\_innovation/funding/documents/ocean\_and\_waters\_implementation\_plan\_for\_publication.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Stichting Leiden2022 is a foundation, founded in April 2020 with the specific aim of organising ECS2022 and the Young Talents Programme. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)