

Science with and for Society – Project Partner Search Form

CALL: Science with and for Society 2017

- I offer my expertise to participate as a Partner in a Project
- I am planning to coordinate a project and I am looking for Project Partners

Topics
1. Institutional Change to Support Responsible Research and Innovation in Research Performing and Funding Organisations
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-03-2016-2017: Support to research organisations to implement gender equality plans
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-05-2017: New constellations of Changing Institutions and Actors
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-06-2017: Engaging industry – Champions for RRI in Industrial Sectors
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-08-2017: European Community of Practice to support institutional change
2. Embedding Responsible Research and Innovation in Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-10-2017: Putting Open Science into action
3. Strengthening the Science with and for Society Knowledge-Base
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SwafS-11-2017: Science education outside the classroom
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-12-2017: Webs of Innovation Value Chains and Openings for RRI
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-13-2017: Integrating Society in Science and Innovation – An approach to co-creation
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-14-2017: A Linked-up Global World of RRI
4. Developing Inclusive, Anticipatory Governance for Research & Innovation
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-21-2017: Promoting integrity in the use of research results in evidence based policy: a focus on non-medical research
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-22-2017: The ethical dimensions of IT technologies: a European perspective focusing on security and human rights aspects
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-23-2017: Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in support of sustainability and governance, taking account of the international context
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-24-2017: Trans-national operation of the EURAXESS Service network
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-26-2017: Science4Refugees - Support to highly skilled refugee scientists
<input type="checkbox"/> SwafS-27-2017: Implementing a European Train-the-trainers initiative with regard to Ethics and Research Integrity

1) PROJECT INFORMATION

Field of expertise related to the topic: public journalism, science communication, participatory journalism, research driven innovation, science education, RRI, social psychology

Potential contribution to the project:

ULB will coordinate the network of European universities setting up local hubs for the co-creation of science communication (see below). We combine the expertise of critical analysis and training in science communication with the experience of setting up action-research projects and analysing participatory processes in journalism.

Role in the project:

- Research Dissemination Other
 Training Technology Development

Project idea:

In a world in a high risk of becoming dominated by populist approaches to politics , two of the institutions that have been central for the progress of European societies in the 20th Century could play a crucial role to empower citizens and strengthen the health of our democracies: science and journalism see their legitimacy questioned for similar reasons and urgently need to reconnect with the public. That most likely requires rethinking the relationship between citizens and research traditionally mediated through science journalism.

The project aims at 1) allowing young citizens to co-create, together with journalists and scholars from various disciplines, a “mode 2” of science communication (*) and a new form of science-based information that address the social challenges they would like to see solved in the near future ; 2) through a concomitant exercise of reflexivity and the help of qualitative action-research methodologies, developing a methodology that allows the further operationalization and reproducibility of this “mode 2” of science communication.

(*) We transpose here to the field of science communication the notion of “mode 2” of knowledge production in the meaning given by Gibbons et al., which relates to the cocreation of research that is carried out in its context of application, aiming at resolving societal problems through an interdisciplinary approach (Gibbons et al., 1994).

Project description: We will provide for a context that is both “outside the classroom” and based on a “learning by doing” approach, in which “young concerned citizens” - i.e. : young citizens involved in projects that address a locally relevant societal challenge – will be put in contact with scientists from all disciplinary fields of the STEM, the arts and the SSH on the one hand, and journalists on the other hand. With the collaboration of local schools and science culture centers, we will map the initiatives that are best suited to participate in each local iteration of the Swafs project, on the basis of a set of collectively agreed criteria. Young citizens involved in these initiatives will be invited to engage with the co-creation hub. Then, with the help of science communicators who will act as brokers between them, these three categories of stakeholders - young citizens, scholars and journalists - will interact and collaborate together to allow the co-creation of a new mode of science communication, that transcends the usual linearity of science popularization and scientific journalism, and that is better adapted to the communication of science-informed innovation projects, both of a technological and/or societal nature.

The aim of this very “mode 2” of science communication we intend to experiment is to eventually deliver information that is relevant both for researchers, journalists, civic communities and political institutions alike. Through the process of co-creation young people will be empowered in their civic engagement thanks to the information they get from the scientists about the scientific knowledge that may best help them to make informed decisions in the context of the innovative actions they are involved in. Researchers will get involved in more interdisciplinary exchanges with peers so that they can bring their common expertise, rooted in scientific methodology and

critical approaches, to the civic projects of the students, experimenting to this end a diversity of communication channels while also delivering answers to the media, that are more interdisciplinary and better connected to the contexts of application of their research. Finally journalists will get the opportunity to reposition themselves as facilitators of citizen debates on relevant collective challenges, giving voice to the diversity of actors involved, fact-checking and summarizing the proposals, explaining the role of scientific knowledge in the resolution of the challenges and structuring the decision-making process, while reinforcing the relationship between science, citizens and the media.

Concretely this process of co-creation will happen through both in-person “outside the classroom” interactions, and activities on a dedicated online platform. In-person interactions will consist mainly in debates between stakeholders, visits on their respective workplaces as well as training sessions that will stimulate each category of stakeholders to go out of one's comfort zone, understand the specificities of each one's methodologies (i.e. : scientific method, citizen engagement and journalistic methods) and confront with the new needs of a “mode 2” of science communication, which is on its turn better adapted for the so-called “mode 2 of knowledge production” (Gibbons et al. 1994). While journalists will publish stories in national media about the societal challenges that the young engaged citizens are tackling as well as about the scientific knowledge that helps them to find responsible solutions, the digital online platform will document the co-creation process, archive in Open Access and open to online discussions all the other outputs that are generated through each iteration of the project, including communication contents that will be produced by the young citizens themselves.

Simultaneously, we consider the project as an action-research in itself. Hence the core researchers involved in the project will combine several qualitative methods (semi-structured interviews, focus groups, Delphi panel; online and offline network ethnography; assessment of trust and preconceived ideas from a psychosocial perspective) before, during and after each iteration of the co-creation process in order to assess how effective the different hubs of stakeholders are in co-creating a “mode 2” of science communication. The final report shall eventually provide a critical assessment developed into guidelines for the replication and the operationalization of the experience in other cities in the future, i.e. : a model to redefine the relationships between science, journalism and citizenry.

Already experience as a Coordinator: yes no

As a Partner: yes no

If “yes”, which project:

Other partners in consortium already identified (with countries):

2) TARGET COORDINATOR / PARTNER SOUGHT

Organisation details:



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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Higher education / university	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry / SME
<input type="checkbox"/> Research institution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> NGO	Please specify:
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	

We are looking for following Expertise / Competencies:

Universities eager to create local hubs of co-creation of science communication, with researchers able to analyse some of the aspects of the action-research process: participatory processes in journalism and in science communication, science education outside of the classroom. The project will have collective international workshops to set up common practices for the co-creation hubs and share experiences, where each university partner will contribute their expertise.

3) CONTACT DETAILS

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Ms x Mr

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Organisation web address: <http://resic.ulb.ac.be>

Short profile of the Organisation:

Two teams are involved in the project at Université Libre de Bruxelles: The Research Center in Information and Communication (ReSIC) and the Research Communication Service.

ReSIC explores the vast and multidimensional field of Information and Communication sciences, with the researchers involved in this Swafs proposal focusing on journalism as a collective social practice (David Domingo) and the production of science communication (Marc Vanholsbeeck). Using theoretical and methodological approaches with an interdisciplinary spirit, more than 50 researchers explore cultural, media and technological issues. ReSIC is working in close connection with civil society organizations, professional journalists, private and non-profit corporations and cultural bodies.

The Research Communication Service at ULB, led by Nathalie Gobbe, produces information about the research at the university by creating multimedia platforms and liaising with news media, and fosters the training of researchers in science communication.

Date: February 2017

The offer is valid until: December 2017

I agree with publication of my contact data on “Science with and for Society” network website

YES NO

PLEASE FILL THE FORM AND RETURN IT TO YOUR HORIZON 2020 NATIONAL CONTACT POINT FOR SCIENCE WITH AND FOR SOCIETY.