

To Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education
and Youth,
Mariya Gabriel,
Directorate General for Research and Innovation
European Commission
Brussels



Dear Commissioner Gabriel,

We, the signatories of this open letter, strongly support the European Commission's intention to involve citizens in co-creating and co-designing the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation¹. However we see important gaps in the involvement strategy as currently planned and hereby suggest three communication objectives that should maximise the Programme's relevance and impact.

1) Enhance European citizens' scientific culture

- To enable citizens to make informed decisions on important issues like vaccination, or when choosing careers, or when taking up innovative products or services
- To increase the scientific literacy of citizens for their active contribution in the co-creation, co-design or setting of priorities within the R&I ecosystem, as fittingly wished by the EC.

This needs a dedicated "Citizens in Science" work programme, in line with the current SWAFS programme in H2020 and funded at the same level, as well as an articulated citizen engagement approach in most research projects, done with professional science mediators.

2) Involve stakeholders and citizens in R & I priority setting

- Approaches based solely on online consultations neglect the demonstrated value of face-to-face workshops and deliberative events. We question how a process limited to online consultations would succeed in engaging a broad scope of citizens.

Resources should be devoted to creating a truly engaging process, with both online and face-to-face approaches.

3) Make the Topics of the Missions the talk of Europe

- It will take at least 5 to 10 years before research results from the Missions are delivered; those results will be expressed in scientific terms incomprehensible for most citizens; and it will take an even longer time for citizens to understand how the results positively impact their lives.
- For these reasons, and for the Missions to have the communication impact they deserve, Coordinating and Supporting Actions (CSA) should be developed on the topics of the Missions - not on the Missions themselves. For example, on the topic "Adaptation to Climate Change", actors in science engagement across Europe would deliver activities such as citizen dialogues with researchers, exhibitions, hackathons, curated dialogues on ethical issues, etc.

This needs topical CSAs throughout the Missions' time span, with appropriate budgets to make an impact at the European level.

Professional science engagement organisations such as science centres and museums are trusted by the public; they have an enormous reach: **+40 million visitors per year**; they are highly experienced and innovative; and have demonstrable leadership and convening power. They are necessary for an efficient and relevant research system.

Dear Commissioner Gabriel, in a nutshell: to **meaningfully engage with citizens**, don't rely on top-down communication approaches where research and innovation results are "delivered" and "explained" to citizens: in numerous circumstances, these have been proven to fail. **Be more ambitious on science engagement**, and rely on cost effective actions led by very experienced and committed science centres and museums and other science engagement organisations, all over Europe.

¹ Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and the Council on establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

List of the 140 organisations signatories from European Union and associated countries as of 10/01/2020:

AUSTRIA



Universalmuseum Joanneum



BELGIUM



BULGARIA



CZECH REPUBLIC



DENMARK

EXPERIMENTARIUM



ESTONIA



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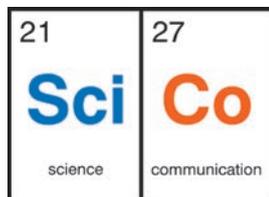


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and Technology Park**


**science centre
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PORTUGAL

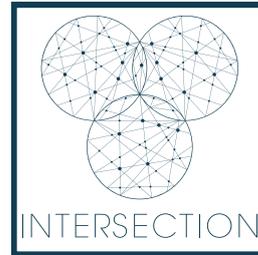
 **CIÊNCIA VIVA**

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SERBIA



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INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS



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List of the 140 organisations from European Union and associated countries and their representatives which have endorsed this open letter as of 10/01/2020

International Networks

- **Ecsite, the European network of science centres & museums**, Dr Herbert Munder – President ; Catherine Franche – Executive Director
- **European Network of Living Labs – EnoLL**, Zsuzsanna Bodi – Director
- **AURORA universities network**, Kees Kouwenaar – Secretary General
- **Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI)**, Josep M. Vilalta – Director
- **ECSA European Citizen Science Association**, Prof. Johannes Vogel – Chair
- **EUSEA - European Science engagement Association**, Dr. Annette Klinkert – Executive Director
- **Science Gallery International**, Andrea Bandelli – Executive Director
- **Global Health Advocates**
- **Living Knowledge Network**, Norbert Steinhaus – Coordinator
- **World Ocean Network**, Manuel Cira – Director
- **Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums**, Dr. Jörg Ehtreiber – President
- **AGE Platform Europe**, Anne-Sophie Parent – Secretary General
- **European Science Foundation – Science Connect**, Dr. Jean-Claude Worms – CEO

Austria

- **ScienceCenter-Network Austria**, Dr. Barbara Streicher - Executive Manager
- **Universalmuseum Joanneum GmbH**, Dr. Wolfgang Muchitsch, Director of Science
- **FRida & freD - The Graz Children's Museum**, Dr. Jörg Ehtreiber – Director

Belgium

- **Technopolis**, Stephane Berghmans – CEO
- **Association of Biology Teachers - PROBIO asbl**, Gérard Cobut - Chairman
- **Vereniging voor het Onderwijs in de Biologie, de Milieuleer en de Gezondheidseducatie - vzw (VOB - vzw)**, Marleen Van Strydonck - President
- **Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences**, Patricia Supply - General Director a.i.

Bulgaria

- **Centre for Research and Analysis**, Prof. Dr. Albena Vutsova - Head of the Managing Board
- **Muzeiko Foundation**, Bistra Kirova-Koleva - Executive Director

Czech Republic

- **Techmania Science Center**, Vlastimil Volak - CEO

Denmark

- **Experimentarium**, Kim Gladstone Herlev – CEO
- **Universe Science Park**, Torben Kylling Petersen - CEO

Estonia

- **Science Centre AHHA Foundation**, Pilvi Kolk - Member of the Board
- **Energia avastuskeskus**, Krista Keedus - Director
- **TMDx**, Toomas Kants - CEO

Finland

- **Heureka, The Finnish Science Centre**, Dr. Tapio Koivu – CEO
- **Arctic Centre**, Nicolas Gunslay - Head of science centre

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France

- **Universcience – Cité des sciences et de l'industrie et Palais de la découverte**, Bruno Maquart – Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
- **SEMECCEL Cité de l'espace / L'envol des Pionniers**, Jean Baptiste Desbois – CEO
- **Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle**, Bruno David - President
- **Amcsti**, Guillaume Desbrosse - President
- **ANDROMEDE**, Marie-France Duval - Executive Manager
- **CCSTI La Rotonde**, Guillaume Desbrosse - Director
- **Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Nantes**, Philippe Guillet - Director
- **Association Savoir Apprendre – Exploradôme**, Amar Aber - General Director
- **OMBELLISCIENCE**, Raphaël Degenne - Director
- **Tous Chercheurs**, Constance Hammond – President-founder
- **Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace, Paris - Le Bourget**, Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine - Director
- **TRACES**, Matteo Merzagora - Scientific director
- **L'ÉTABLI**, Fernand Mainpin – President
- **Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle – Toulouse Metropole**, Francis Duranthon - Director
- **CCSTI Grenoble – La Casemate**, Jeany Jean-Baptiste - Director
- **Accustica**, Mélanie Debèvre – Director
- **Musée des arts et métiers**, Pascale Heurtel - Assistant to the Deputy Head for Heritage, Information and Scientific and Technical Culture
- **Nausicaà**, Centre National de la Mer, Philippe Vallette - General Manager
- **La Turbine Science**, Philippe De Pachtère - Director
- **The Europlanet Society**, Nigel Mason – President
- **Science Animation**, Johan Langot – CEO
- **Le Vaisseau**, Sabine Ischia – Director

Germany

- **Universum**, Dr. Herbert Munder – General Manager
- **Deutsches Museum**, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Heckl – General Director
- **city2science**, Dr. Annette Klinkert - CEO
- **Stiftung Neanderthal Museum**, Dr. Bärbel Auffermann – Director
- **Phänomena e.V.**, Achim Englert - CEO
- **Archimedes Exhibitions GmbH**, Gunnar Behrens - Managing Director
- **Wissenschaftsladen Bonn**, Anke Valentin, Brigitte Peter - General Manager(s)
- **Effektschmiede GmbH**, Judith Mann - Dipl. Ing.
- **phaeno gGmbH**, Michel Junge – CEO/Director
- **MINTaktiv e.V.**, Michel Junge – President

Greece

- **Science Center and Technology Museum of Thessaloniki – NOESIS**, Athanasios Kontonikolaou – Director General
- **SciCo**, Theo Anagnostopoulos - Founder and General Manager
- **Ellinogermaniki Agogi**, Stavros Savvas – President and CEO
- **VILABS OE**, Apostolos Vontas - Director

Hungary

- **ESSRG Ltd**, Bálint Balázs - Executive Manager

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Israel

- **Bloomfield Science Museum Jerusalem**, Maya Halevy - Director
- **Carasso Science Park**, Dr. Netzach Farbiash - CEO

Italy

- **Città della Scienza**, Luigi Amodio – Director of the Science Centre
- **Sissa Medialab**, Enrico M. Balli – CEO
- **Fondazione Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci**, Fiorenzo Marco Galli - Director General
- **Psiquadro**, Leonardo Alfonsi - Director
- **MUSE Science Museum**, Michele Lanzinger - Director
- **Infini.to - Planetarium of Turin**, Eleonora Monge – General Director
- **NOI Techpark**, Ulrich Stofner - CEO

Latvia

- **Latvian association of science centers (LZCA)**, Paul Irbins – Board member

Luxembourg

- **Musée national d'histoire naturelle Luxembourg**, Alain Faber - Director

Malta

- **Esplora Interactive Science Centre**, Rachael Blackburn – Director

Norway

- **The Norwegian Museum of Science and Technology**, Frode Meinich – Director
- **Vitensenteret I Trondheim**, Arnfinn Stendahl Rokne – Director
- **Jærmuseet**, Målfrid Snørteland – Director
- **Expology AS**, Gordon Ryan - Managing Director

Poland

- **Copernicus Science Center**, Robert Firmhofer – Chief Executive Officer
- **Bialystok Science and Technology Park**, Anna Daszuta-Zalewska - Director
- **EXPERYMENT Science Centre**, Alicja Harackiewicz - Director
- **Bialystok University of Technology**, Prof. Lech Dzienis - Rector

Portugal

- **Ciência Viva**, Rosalia Vargas - President
- **Expolab-Centro Ciência Viva**, João Paulo Constância - Director
- **SciComPt**, Joana Lobo Antunes - President
- **Centro Ciência Viva de Lagos / Lagos Ciência Viva Science Centre**, Luis Azevedo Rodrigues – Executive Director
- **Centro de Astrofísica da Universidade do Porto**, Dr Jarle Brinchmann
- **Planetário do Porto – Centro Ciência Viva**, Dr Daniel F. M. Folha - Executive Director
- **Instituto de Astrofísica e Ciências do Espaço**, Dr José Afonso - Unit Coordinator

Serbia

- **Intersection - Center for Science and Innovation**, Aleksandra Drecun – President
- **Center for the Promotion of Science**, Dr Marko Krstic - Acting Director

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Slovenia

- **Kersnikova Institute**, Klemen Kristan - Director

Spain

- **Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona**, Anna Omedes – Director
- **Museo Didáctico e Interactivo de Ciencias de la Vega Baja del Segura de la Comunitat Valenciana (MUDIC-VBS-CV)**, Mari Carmen Perea Marco – General Director
- **Parque de las Ciencias**, Ernesto Páramo Sureda - Director
- **Institute of Neurosciences of the University of Barcelona**, Jordi Alberch Vie - Director
- **Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)**, María Jesús Pinazo Delgado - Assistant Research Professor, Principal Investigator of InSPIRES Project
- **Pompeu Fabra University - Science, Communication and Society Studies Center**, Gema Revuelta - Director
- **Musealia**, Luis Ferreiro - Director
- **Institut de Cultura de Barcelona – Barcelona Ciència**, Joan Subirats Humet - Deputy Major of Culture, Education, Science and Community and President of Institut de Cultura de Barcelona
- **Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències**, Enrique Vidal Pérez – General Manager

Sweden

- **Tom Tits Experiment AB**, Elin Lydahl – CEO
- **Vetenskap & Allmänhet, VA (Public & Science)**, Cissi Billgren Askwall – Secretary General
- **Innovatum Science Center**, Martin Wänblom – CEO

Switzerland

- **Raumschiff – Maker Space for Astronomy**, Hanna Sathiapal – Director
- **focusTerra – Earth Science Research and Information Center of ETH Zurich**, Dr. Ulrike Kastrup – Head of focusTerra
- **ETH Library**, Dr. Rafael Ball - Director
- **University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland - Institute for Data Science FHNW**, Prof. Dr. André Csillaghy - Head of the Institute
- **Zurich Basel Plant Science Center**, Prof. Bruno Studer – President PSC
- **Swiss Space Museum Supporters Association**, Guido Schwarz - Founder & Project Manager
- **L'ideatorio - Università della Svizzera italiana**, Dr. Giovanni Pellegrini – Director

The Netherlands

- **NEMO Science Museum**, Michiel Buchel – Director
- **Naturalis Biodiversity Center**, Edwin van Huis – General Director
- **VSC - The Dutch Association of Science Centers and Museums**, Alex Verkade – Director
- **Rijksmuseum Boerhaave**, Amito Haarhuis – Director
- **Stichting Erfgoedpark Batavialand**, J. Vriezen – Director
- **Haarlemmermeermuseum De Cruquius**, E.M.C. van Melis – Director
- **Natuurmuseum Brabant**, Dr. Fiona B.R. Zachariasse – Director
- **De Ontdekkabriek**, Chris Voets – Director
- **Science LinX – University of Groningen**, Renske de Jonge - Manager
- **YIPP**, Wouter van der Zouwe – Director
- **Continium discovery center**, Hans Gubbels - CEO
- **Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**, Jacqueline Broerse - Full professor Innovation & Communication in Health and Life Sciences
- **BRAK**, Jacqueline van Gils – Project Manager

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Turkey

- **Bursa Science and Technology Center**, Nazım Enes Altan - COO
- **İnformel Eğitim ve Danışmanlık Hizmetleri / Informal Education-cocukistanbul**, Sibel Çetingöz and Erdoğan Kahyaoğlu - Former and Co Directors

United Kingdom

- **Science Museum Group**, Sir Ian Blatchford – Director and CEO of the Science Museum Group
- **Edinburgh Science**, Dr. Simon Gage – Director and CEO
- **We The Curious**, Anna Starkey - Chief Creative Officer
- **Norwich Astronomical Society**, Chris Greenfield – Secretary
- **The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres**, Dr Penny Fidler – CEO
- **W5**, Lydia McClelland – Head of W5
- **The Natural History Museum, London**, Brad Irwin – Head of International Partnerships
- **Dundee Science Centre**, Dr Isabel Bruce – Interim Chief Executive
- **Culture Instable Ltd**, Didier Laval - Director