

Dear Commissioner Moedas,

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 Moedas, 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 signatories from European Union and associated countries as of 14/06/2019:



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Experimentarium
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Heureka, The Finnish Science Centre
Dr. Tapio Koivu - CEO



Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona
Anna Omedes - Director



NEMO Science Museum
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Science Center and Technology Museum of
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Oslo vitensenter
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List of signatories from European Union and associated countries as of 14/06/2019 (logos will be added soon):

- **ScienceCenter-Network Austria** (Vienna, Austria)
- **EUSEA - European Science engagement Association** (Vienna, Austria)
- **Universalmuseum Joanneum GmbH** (Graz, Austria)
- **Centre for Research and Analysis** (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- **Universe Science Park** (Nordborg, Denmark)
- **Science Centre AHHA Foundation** (Tartu, Estonia)
- **Arctic Centre** (Rovaniemi, Finland)
- **Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle** (Paris, France)
- **Amcsti** (Paris, France)
- **city2science** (Herford, Germany)
- **Stiftung Neanderthal Museum** (Mettmann, Germany)
- **SciCo** (Athens, Greece)
- **Science Gallery International** (Dublin, Ireland)
- **Bloomfield Science Museum Jerusalem** (Jerusalem, Israel)
- **Sissa Medialab** (Trieste, Italy)
- **Fondazione Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia Leonardo da Vinci** (Milano, Italy)
- **Esplora Interactive Science Centre** (Kalkara, Malta)
- **Vitensenteret I Trondheim** (Trondheim, Norway)
- **Expology AS** (Oslo, Norway)
- **Bialystok Science and Technology Park** (Bialystok, Poland)
- **Expolab-Centro Ciência Viva** (Lagoa-Azores, Portugal)
- **Intersection - Center for Science and Innovation** (Belgrade, Serbia)
- **Museo Didáctico e Interactivo de Ciencias de la Vega Baja del Segura de la Comunitat Valenciana (MUDIC-VBS-CV)** (Orihuela, Spain)
- **Parque de las Ciencias** (Granada, Spain)
- **Institute of Neurosciences of the University of Barcelona** (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)** (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Tom Tits Experiment AB** (Södertälje, Sweden)
- **Raumschiff – Maker Space for Astronomy** (Dübendorf, Switzerland)
- **Institute for Data Science FHNW** (Windisch, Switzerland)
- **focusTerra – Earth Science Research and Information Center of ETH Zurich** (Zürich, Switzerland)
- **ETH Library** (Zürich, Switzerland)
- **Naturalis Biodiversity Center** (Leiden, The Netherlands)
- **“VSC - Vereniging voor wetenschapsmusea en science centers (The Dutch Association of Science Centers and Museums)”** (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- **Rijksmuseum Boerhaave** (Leiden, The Netherlands)
- **Stichting Erfgoedpark Batavialand** (Lelystad, The Netherlands)
- **Haarlemmermeermuseum De Cruquius** (Cruquius, The Netherlands)
- **Natuurmuseum Brabant** (Tilburg, The Netherlands)
- **De Ontdekkabriek** (Eindhoven, The Netherlands)
- **Bursa Science and Technology Center** (Bursa, Turkey)
- **Edinburgh Science** (Previously Edinburgh International Science Festival) (Edinburgh, United Kingdom)
- **W5** (Belfast, United Kingdom)
- **We The Curious** (Bristol, United Kingdom)