



SCIENCE EUROPE MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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FOREWORD

Lidia Borell-Damián
Secretary-General of Science Europe



Dear Members,

Welcome to the latest edition of our members' newsletter. As we begin 2025, Science Europe continues to shape the future of European and global research. In this issue, we highlight several key developments.

Science Europe's advocacy for the upcoming FP10 programme continues to gain momentum. The event "FP10: Beyond an Investment" on 18-19 February, hosted by FWO in Brussels, will be a key moment for member organisations to discuss priorities and investments for future research. Full details are on page 5.

We are also very pleased to report that Swiss researchers have regained access to Horizon Europe as of 1 January 2025, strengthening the collaboration between Switzerland and the EU. More information is on page 5.

This month, the Africa–Europe Co-operation report, published on 22 January, which captures insights from our workshop on 30 October 2024 in Tallinn. This event was the first in a series aimed at strengthening international collaboration. The report outlines key actions to enhance partnerships and mobility between Africa and Europe, with a focus on decolonising research and co-designing collaborations. Read more on page 3.

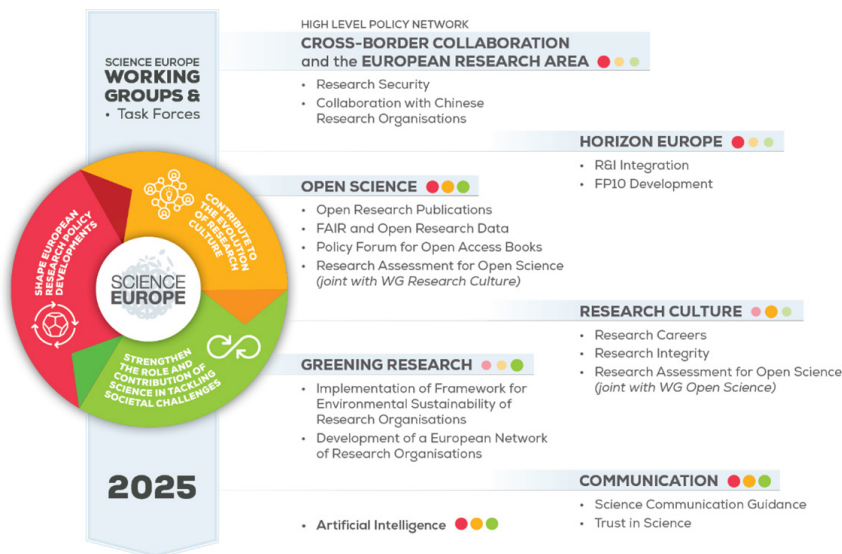
We also report on our first steps in initiating a collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). On 20 January, the Director and Deputy Director of the Center for Management Innovation and Evaluation at CAS visited Science Europe to discuss the challenges of research assessment and the role of AI in science. This visit paves the way for further dialogue, which you can learn about on page 4.

Science Europe is very pleased to have played a crucial role in coordinating the letter of intent, co-signed by 11 member organisations, to place the Open Research Europe (ORE) platform in public hands as of 2026. Furthermore, in early 2025 we have supported several initiatives in Diamond Open Access, including the launch of the European Diamond Capacity Hub in Madrid, and the EU-funded ALMASI project (where Science Europe assumes a role on the advisory board). Read more on this growing area of research publishing on page 8.

Finally, our webinar on AI in Science Communication, held on 29 November, explored the ethical and societal implications of AI tools in research communication. We will continue these discussions with a webinar on 4 March, where we'll focus on AI's role in Open Science. Details are shared on page 9.

- Lidia

SCIENCE EUROPE Overview of the Year Ahead



As 2025 gets underway, I would like to take this moment to thank you for your support for Science Europe and our activities over the past year and your continuing commitment to advancing research and innovation policy across Europe and beyond.

Looking back, we achieved many significant milestones which would not have been possible without your contributions. Key highlights include our [call](#) to governments to strengthen European research and innovation following the outcomes of the High Level Workshop in November, and for a radical shift in international research collaboration to tackle global challenges through the [Conclusions of the Reciprocity Summit](#) at the Science

Summit organised during the 79th UN General Assembly and the [outcomes](#) of the Africa-Europe workshop in Tallinn in October.

Our continuous advocacy for [fair and inclusive research policies](#); the [strategic conclusions](#) from our landmark conference on science communication; advancements in open science and research assessment as demonstrated in our [member survey report](#); our formal admission as an observer to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the launch of the [Framework for the Environmental Sustainability of Research Organisations](#); and our ongoing advocacy for a strong, well-resourced research and inno-

vation sector during the [European Parliament elections](#) and [ahead of the start of discussions](#) on the EU's new framework programme (FP10) were also important achievements during 2024. Together with our members we continue to express our solidarity for our colleagues in Ukraine, who continue to operate in the most challenging circumstances.

During 2025, Science Europe will continue to advocate for transformative investments and policies under FP10; strengthen our community through joint actions and shared learning in research culture, diversity, and open science; and support and reinforce the development of Diamond Open Access at regional and global levels through our participation in the European Diamond Capacity Hub.

Science Europe has or is soon to publish a series of publications that will further our mission and support our members. Amongst the recently published, there features an internal event report on [Environmental Sustainability of Research and Research-related Activities](#), as well as a summary of a workshop held on Africa-Europe collaboration, [Co-operation between Africa and Europe - best practice, future possibilities, and the role of Science](#)

Europe. Amongst those expected to be released soon, are an Internal Briefing on FP10, and a report on the SE-NSFC Beijing Meeting. We will also release a report on R&I Integration following interviews held with 14 members of Science Europe, and a report of Webinar on AI in Science Communications. Additionally, we will publish a briefing on Dual-Use Research, a report of the Webinar on Cross-Border Collaboration, as well as a factsheet on the Environmental Impact of Science.

In addition to organising the annual High Level Workshop, we are also

planning to develop new initiatives on greening research and sustainability, including the European Network of Organisations in Greening Research; organise a High Level Conference to focus on the issue of trust in science, co-hosted with the French National Research Agency; and continue to support our members in the adoption of Artificial Intelligence tools in research processes. We also look forward to convening a joint congress of our working groups at the end of 2025, to foster greater collaboration and strengthen our collective impact. The diagram below summarises the

working groups' main areas of focus during the coming year ()

None of this would be possible without your unwavering support, as a vital component of the collaborative work carried out by our dedicated team at Science Europe. Whether through active participation in working groups, co-organising events, or contributing to critical discussions, your engagement ensures the continued success and impact of Science Europe. I look forward to working closely with all of you throughout the year ahead.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION



On 22 January, Science Europe published the report of the workshop on 'Africa-Europe co-operation – best practice, future possibilities, and the role of Science Europe'.

This event took place on 30 October 2024, following the European Regional Meeting of the Global Research Council (GRC) in Tallinn, Estonia. It marked the first in a series of Science Europe workshops designed to bring together its members with different world regions, one by one. The concept was developed by the High Level Policy Network.

The workshop aimed to support international collaboration to enhance excellence in science and address pressing global challenges. The report outlines specific actions and commitments to be taken forward by both regions, including Science Europe and the Global Research Council.

Key Messages from the Report:

Decolonising Research Partnerships: The approach to research partnerships should be decolonised to allow for truly reciprocal collaboration, considering the needs of all regions.

Co-Designing Partnerships: Partnerships should be co-designed, dismantling the Eurocentric approach and building mutually beneficial collaborations.

Facilitating Mobility: Mobility is vital for international collaboration, but visa requirements remain a major obstacle. Actors should advocate to national authorities and institutions to facilitate brain circulation.

Advocating Reciprocity: European actors should actively advocate

for the inclusion of reciprocity elements in the policies for international co-operation in the next Framework Programme (FP10).

Promoting Multilateral Funding: Setting up more platforms for multilateral funding is challenging but essential. Multilateral funding opportunities should be promoted to make collaboration more effective.

In addition to these messages, the Global Research Council should continue to actively facilitate and promote bi- and multilateral collaboration through its Multilateral Engagement Working Group (MLEWG). Science Europe should play a more active role in co-ordinating policies or actions at the European level and act as a liaison for collaboration with the African region.

Next Steps and Implementation:

The workshop report outlines several concrete steps to be taken to achieve the goals discussed. Science Europe and the Global Research Council will work together to advocate for policy changes that include reciprocity elements in the next Framework Programme (FP10). They will also promote the creation of more platforms for multilateral funding, making collaboration more effective.

To address mobility challenges, involved actors will advocate to national authorities and institutions to facilitate the process of brain circulation. This includes simplifying visa requirements and providing support for researchers relocating for collaborative projects.

Science Europe will take an active role in co-ordinating policies and actions at the European level, acting as a liaison to strengthen collaboration with the African region. This includes setting up joint research initiatives, promoting equitable

partnerships, and ensuring that research agendas respond to Africa's priorities.

The High Level Policy Network (HLPN) of Science Europe will continue to focus on building partnerships with countries within and beyond the European continent, removing structural barriers to knowledge sharing, capacity building, and brain circulation.

For more details, you can read the full report [here](#).



On 20 January, a delegation from the Evaluation Unit of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) visited Science Europe. This visit builds on the existing collaboration with Chinese Research Organisations and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), aiming to expand the collaboration to include CAS.

The delegation was led by the Director and Deputy Director of the Center for Management Innovation and Evaluation at CAS. Representatives of the Permanent Representation of China to the European Union were also present. The discussion covered research assessment, peer review challenges in the Chinese research ecosystem, AI for

science, and research infrastructures. CAS detailed the challenges faced in the peer review process due to a lack of qualified peer reviewers to meet the high number of applications. The use of AI for science was discussed in terms of data sharing and Open Science, as well as the hesitations of Chinese researchers to share their research data broadly. The topic of AI was also approached from the perspective of research infrastructures, touching upon systems that connect data repositories in Europe, such as EOSC.

The cooperation between Science Europe and CAS will build on this meeting, with the possibility of organising a joint workshop on the topic of research assessment.

Additionally, on 27 November 2024, Science Europe hosted a meeting with the Minister of Science and Technology of China, Mr. YIN Hejun, at their office in Brussels. This meeting aimed to further expand policy dialogue and practical cooperation between Science Europe, its member institutions, and Chinese partners. The discussions included Open Science policies and practices, visions for expanding cooperation, and suggestions on China's S&T policies and international cooperation policies. Insights from the recent Africa-Europe co-operation workshop were also shared, highlighting the importance of equitable and reciprocal partnerships.



As the proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework, and the 10th EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) is expected to see the light of day this year, Science Europe's advocacy activities on FP10 are accelerating. Hence, in 2025 the Working Group on Horizon Europe is set to meet monthly, and it already held its first online meeting in January, the primary topic of which was the upcoming event on FP10.

The event "FP10: Beyond an Investment", scheduled to be held on 18-19 February, is a foundational part of Science Europe's advocacy strategy. There, the Heads of Science Europe organisations will have the opportunity to establish key advocacy points on "FP10 Objectives, Priorities, and Investments", "FP10 Structure & Programme Characteristics" and "An Open & Secure

FP10" - the key panel topics. Science Europe members will also have the chance to hear keynotes from European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation Ekaterina Zaharieva, Manuel Heitor, the leader of the EC Working Group which authored the "Align, Act, Accelerate" report on FP10, and André Sapir, Professor of Economics at Université Libre Bruxelles, Belgium, Senior Fellow at Bruegel. Right after the event, the Working Group on Horizon Europe will meet in person to discuss the key conclusions, and embed them into the Science Europe advocacy strategy.

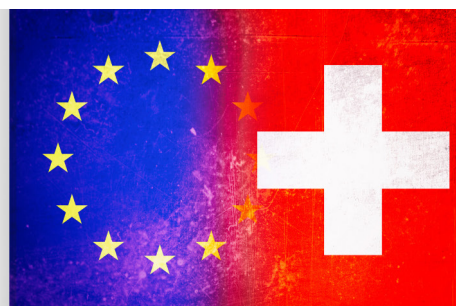
This advocacy strategy outlines the key activities on FP10, including defining advocacy points, follow-up events, and meeting with key policymakers. These are also defined by the institutional timeline, and the upcoming key documents, such as

the "Competitiveness Compass" and the results of the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe.

Science Europe's activities on FP10 are gaining further traction as well. Secretary General Lidia Borrell-Damián was invited to address FP10 at a public hearing at the European Parliament, hosted by MEP Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Member of the European Parliament's ITRE committee. At the roundtable discussion, the members of which included Manuel Heitor and Erik Zabala amongst others, she highlighted the priorities of Science Europe members: a 200 billion Euro investment into FP10, support for basic science, R&I integration, Open Science, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in, as well as sustainability of research, and structural and administrative simplification.

NEWS

Swiss Researchers Regain Access to Horizon Europe



Swiss researchers can once again participate in Horizon Europe, marking a key step for scientific collaboration between Switzerland and the EU.

A new agreement, effective 1 January 2024, reinstates Switzerland as an associated country in the EU's flagship research and innovation programme.

Science Europe is pleased to see Switzerland rejoin Horizon Europe, recognising the value of Swiss contributions to the European research landscape. Their return

is expected to strengthen collaboration and enhance research impact.

Switzerland had been excluded from full participation since 2021

due to broader political disagreements. During this period, Swiss researchers faced restrictions in securing EU funding and leading Horizon Europe projects. With this agreement, Swiss institutions regain the same opportunities as other associated countries, enabling them to engage in cutting-edge research projects across Europe.

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) has welcomed the news, emphasising the importance of global cooperation in tackling major challenges. Horizon Europe, with a budget of €95.5 billion, offers an extensive framework for research, and Switzerland's return ensures European science remains competitive globally.

SNSF had previously launched replacement measures to support researchers during the exclusion period. With the reopening of Horizon Europe, these measures will no longer be necessary, although existing SNSF grants from previous programme years will continue.

GREENING RESEARCH

INTERNAL BRIEFING

Science Europe Webinar on Environmental Sustainability of Research & Research-Related Activities



On 8 November, Science Europe hosted a webinar on Environmental Sustainability of Research & Research-Related Activities, dedicated to presenting the [Framework for the Environmental Sustainability of Research Organisations](#) and discussing the next steps. The webinar was intended for Science Europe Member Organisations exclusively.

The Framework aims to provide guidelines to promote the environmental sustainability of research and research-related activities on a systemic level in Europe. It identifies eight objectives that correspond to eight thematic action areas that can inform research organisations' work towards this goal. Moreover, the Framework also identifies six working priorities for Science Europe and for its Member Organisations. It has been developed in close consultation with Science Europe's members, in particular the Working Group on the Green

and Digital Transition, recently refocused towards Greening Research.

The co-chairs of the Working Group, Margarida Prado from the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and Yamine Aït-Ameur from the French National Research Agency (ANR), presented the Framework during the webinar. Several Member Organisations, including the French National Research Agency (ANR), Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), and Dutch Research Council (NWO) provided testimonies on the environmental sustainability of research. Representatives from the European Commission and the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) provided further input.

The discussions during the webinar touched upon the importance of making tangible progress towards the environmental sustainability of research organisations; providing visibility and recogni-

tion to these efforts; and seeking linkages between environmental sustainability of research and other strategic priorities. Science Europe and its Member Organisations were encouraged to advocate wider change on the systemic level, including vis-à-vis national and European decision makers. Since the Framework has been adopted, the next phase will focus on the particulars of implementing the objectives and priorities included in the Framework, discussing specific actions for Science Europe and the Member Organisations, proposing and developing guidelines. To this end, several suggestions were also voiced during the webinar.

The report of the workshop (for SE Member Organisations only) as well as the slides are available [here](#).

For more information on Science Europe activities on the topic of Greening Research, please contact: Diana Potjomkina (diana.potjomkina@scienceeurope.org).

EVENT REPORT

Attractive Careers in Research: the expectations & roles of different stakeholder groups – A Science Europe Workshop



On 4-5 November, Science Europe hosted a two-day workshop on Careers in Research, dedicated to discussions to generate and co-create new ideas to address the many well-documented challenges that the research sector faces. Science Europe Member Organisations discussed their specific roles and responsibilities towards careers in research and possible actions to take forward individually and collec-

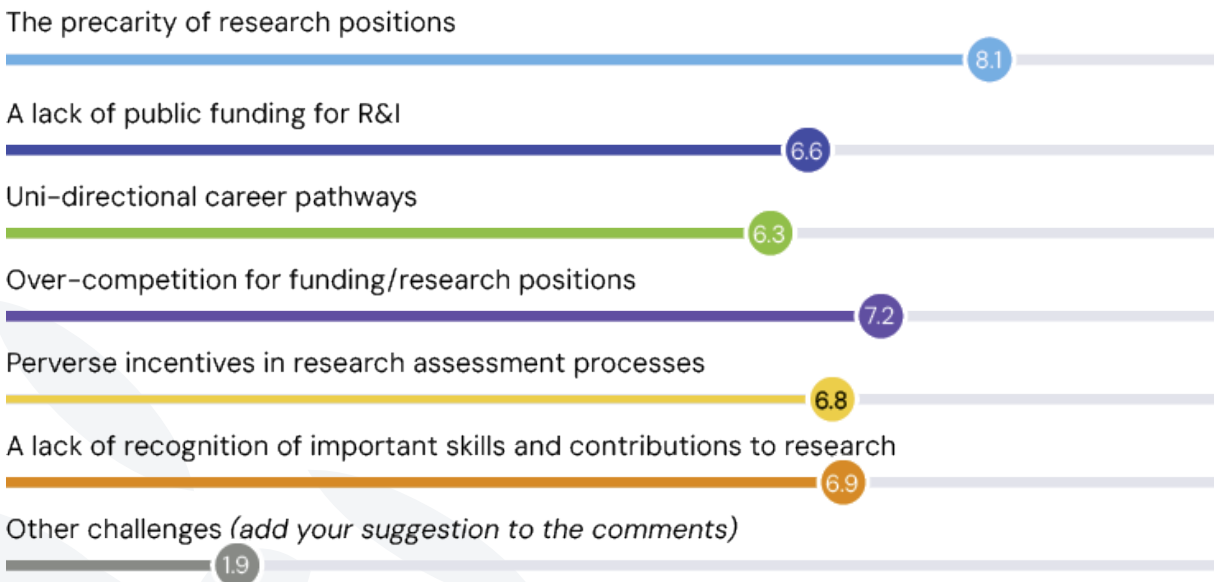
tively. The workshop focused on opportunities for positive action to improve conditions for talented individuals within the research sector in Europe, thereby contributing to the quality of research and the evolution of research cultures.

Over 240 participants from 35 countries joined the open discussion session, exploring challenges and good practices from within

and outside of academia, and from the point of view of a variety of stakeholders—from early career researchers to international policymakers, and from research managers to scientific consultants.

A MentiMeter poll launched during the workshop collected opinions from the online audience on the biggest challenges facing careers in research:

In your view, what are the biggest challenges to attractive careers in research currently?



Smallest challenges

On the second day, representatives from Science Europe Member Organisations held a round-table discussion with workshop speakers on the roles of research organisations in addressing the challenges identified. Discussions covered a

range of topics from open science to research assessment reform, focusing on framework conditions such as minimum standards for all research professionals across Europe and support for career and

Biggest challenges

professional development mechanisms.

The discussions at the workshop aligned with key findings from the [European Commission's recent report on Careers in Research](#), which

underscores the need for systemic improvements to research career pathways, sustainable funding models, and enhanced support for researchers' mobility and career progression. The report highlights the importance of collaboration between research organisations, policymakers, and funding bodies to create a more attractive and resilient research ecosystem in Europe. These insights reinforced the relevance of the workshop discussions and the necessity of coordinated efforts to implement meaningful reforms.

Furthermore, the European Commission's [Research Manage-](#)

[ment Competence Framework](#) was recognised as a significant tool in supporting research managers across Europe. This framework outlines essential competencies and skills needed to enhance the professionalisation of research management, thereby strengthening the research ecosystem. By establishing clear guidelines and expectations, it helps ensure that research managers are well-equipped to support high-quality research.

A full report of the workshop as well as the slides presented by all speakers is available [here](#).

Science Europe aims to contribute to improving careers in research through careful and considered policy and practice changes, and the outcomes of this workshop will now be taken forward by the Science Europe Task Force on Research Careers, who will develop and implement practical actions to improve conditions in support of research quality and impact.

For more information on Science Europe activities on the topic of Careers in Research, please contact: James Morris (james.morris@scienceeurope.org).

OPEN SCIENCE

OPEN SCIENCE

Milestones for Diamond Open Access



Early 2025 marked significant milestones for Diamond Open Access, with the launch of several key initiatives driven by Science Europe and its member organisations.

Introduced in January, these efforts will gain momentum and drive further progress throughout the year.

Leading research funding and performing organisations in Europe have announced in January 2025 their [collective intention](#) to fund **Open Research Europe (ORE)**, ensuring its non-profit mission serves the public good. A full agreement is anticipated later in 2025. Science Europe supports member organisations involved in this effort through the ORE Interest Group, organised by the European Commission. Among the signatories of the statement are eleven Science Europe members:

- Austrian Science Fund (FWF)
- French National Research Agency (ANR)
- Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
- Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development (FORMAS)
- Swedish Research Council (VR)
- German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)
- Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS)
- Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)
- Dutch Research Council (NWO)
- Research Council of Norway (RCN)

The **European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH)** [launched](#) at the headquarters of the Spanish foundation

for Science and Technology (FECYT) on 15 January in Madrid, Spain. The event was opened by Science Europe Vice-President of Research Performing Organisations Javier Moreno Fuentes, in support of the European Diamond Capacity Hub (EDCH). The EDCH aims to empower the Diamond OA community in Europe by supporting capacity centres, publishers, and service providers across institutional, national, and disciplinary levels. Science Europe is a driving force behind EDCH, notably including financial support by ANR and Secretary General Lidia Borrell-Damián serving as Chair of the EDCH Steering Committee.

The EU-funded **ALMASI Project** (Aligning and Mutualizing Non-Profit Open Access Publishing Services

Internationally) [launched](#) on 14 January in Madrid, Spain. ALMASI will build on the DIAMAS project, and seeks to develop a non-profit, high-quality, and sustainable scholarly communication ecosystem spanning three regions: Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Science Europe is part of the project's advisory board.

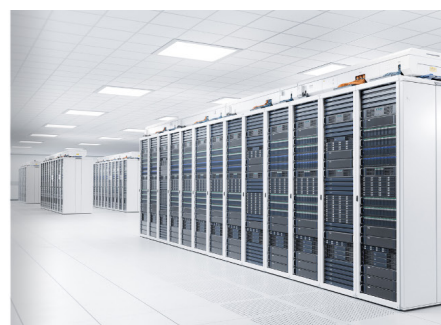
The [Working Group on Open Science](#) met on 28 January 2025 to discuss these and other developments in the open science landscape. Members of this group notably discussed the contribution of open science to the 'fifth freedom' of the Single Market, first proposed in the [Letta Report](#), and the role of open science in the new Framework Programme. Both discussions will continue in 2025.

Science Europe's support for Diamond OA is part of our strategic commitment to [advancing open science](#) as an integral component of the research ecosystem. This strategic objective is at the core of our responsibility to shape the future of research within Europe and beyond. For more information, contact Senior Policy Officer Dr Bregt Saenen at bregt.saenen@scienceeurope.org.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Exploring the Transformative Role of AI in Science Communication



On 29 November, Science Europe hosted a webinar to discuss the implications of Artificial Intelligence for science communication, exploring not only the ethical and societal concerns but also the practical benefits of its use.

This was the third webinar on AI in 2024, as part of our efforts to support Science Europe Member Organisations navigate the evolving landscape of AI and how it can be applied to research systems and processes.

This workshop provided valuable insights into how AI tools like ChatGPT can be used for science communication, as well as the broader implications for trust and public engagement in science. It also highlighted the important role of research funding and promoting organisations in supporting science communicators and researchers to improve their AI literacy, to promote its responsible use; and work with policymakers, academics and AI developers to address the ethical, environmental and societal implications.

1. The Intersection of AI and Science Communication

Mohamed Elsonbaty, an experienced science communicator and founder of SciComm-AI kicked off the discussion with a practical demonstration on

use of ChatGPT, highlighting how to use 'prompt engineering' to produce communications outputs which can be tailored according to specific audiences or different styles. However, he emphasised the importance of reviewing and validating these outputs, just as you would review the work of an intern or assistant, because of the inherent biases and limitations of the materials used to train the models.

2. Ethical Challenges of AI Integration

Expanding on these themes, Jason Pridmore, co-lead of the Expert Group on AI at Erasmus University and co-ordinator of [COALESC](#) And [SEISMIC](#) projects, highlighted not only the potential to democratise science communication by increasing understanding and accessibility of complex research results, but also concerns regarding accuracy and reliability, the spread of misinformation and the risk of an AI-infodemic that could dilute genuine science communication with a flood of AI-driven information. Like Mohamed Elsonbaty he stressed the

need for human oversight, transparency, and for science communicators to develop an essential understanding of the limitations and biases of AI tools, as well as critical thinking to ensure the responsible use of AI.

3. Good Practices in AI and Science Communication

The second part of the webinar focused on AI as a partner for science communication. Darja Aksjonova, Senior Expert and Horizon Europe National Contact Point at the Latvian Council of Science, and member of the Working Group on Communications, presented the "SciCom Bot" she was developing together with researchers at the University of Niš in Serbia. It aims to support researchers to identify more participatory ways of communicating their results, by compiling a database of national science communication strategies and outreach activities; project deliverables focused on science communication from Horizon2020 and Horizon Europe projects and recommendations on practices to improve science commu-

nication and public engagement, which they could interrogate more accessibly. Compared with a similar exercise using ChatGPT, which predominantly referenced US-based projects, it highlighted the need for AI models which better reflect European contexts.

Núria Saladié, PhD Candidate at the Science, Communication and Society Studies Centre, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, presented co-cre-

ated document on [good practice principles for using AI in science communication](#), as an example of how some of the concerns regarding its use could be addressed. Science Communicators can sign up to a series of actions – available in 8 languages on Zenodo- to avoid bias, prioritise and promote transparency, and other ethical AI practices.

The Science Europe Task Force on AI has gathered together all the

reflections and insights from last year's series of webinars in a [paper](#), which highlights some key areas for consideration and further discussion to advance Science Europe's work in this area. The conversation will continue on 4 March 2025 with the next webinar in the series, looking at the challenges and opportunities for Open Science from AI. Find out more information and register here.

First Quarter Meetings & Events

General Assembly Meetings

15/05/25 General Assembly
18-20/11/25 General Assembly

Governing Board Meetings

19/02/25 Governing Board
27/03/25 Governing Board
19/06/25 Governing Board
16/10/25 Governing Board

Working Group Meetings

13/02/25 Greening Research
19/02/25 Horizon Europe
25/02/25 Communications
26/03/25 Research Culture

Workshops & Webinars

11/02/25 Unpacking RA/OS
Survey Results
11/02/25 Research Security 1B
28/02/25 Webinar Women in
Science
[Register](#)
05/03/25 Diamond OA
Community Webinar
18/03/25 Unpacking RA/OS
Results II
18/03/25 Research Security 2
(London)

Launch Events & External Meetings

18-19/02/25 FP10: Beyond an
Investment
18-19/02/25 Riyadh ESG-EIC
Meeting
17-20/03/25 5th Africa-Europe
Science Collaboration
Platform (AERAP)
26/03/25 Launch Research
Culture Framework
31/03-01/04 UKRI Greening
Research Event



10-12/12/25

ANR 20th Anniversary & Trust in Science Event