

Conference Programme: Exploring the Impact of Science Communication and Public Engagement

Organized by COST Association and Aalborg University Copenhagen (AAU)

Thursday 23, 2022, 09:00-16:00, at AAU, A.C. Meyers Vænge 15, DK-2450 Copenhagen SV.
'Auditorium'

Communicating and exchanging scientific knowledge is more important than ever. It helps us address challenges such as climate change, pandemics, and the digital transformation within a world of complexity, uncertainty, and rapid change.

In its different forms, science communication and public engagement are essential to building bridges between communities and amplifying the impact of science and technology. Without doubt, the COVID 19 pandemic has highlighted the critical value of science. But also the challenges associated with communicating uncertainties and unknowns in public. Balancing facts and values continue to be a major challenge, and one that will continue to occupy practitioners and scholars of science communication moving beyond the pandemic.

This one-day conference takes stock of current trends and best practices of how to communicate science to policymakers and citizens, and to include science communication activities within collaborative, interdisciplinary research programmes. The conference presents the results of the COST CCA on Science Communication and explores practical solutions for integrating science communication more broadly within the European eco-system of science and innovation. The conference addresses the following questions:

- What have we learned about the importance of science communication during the pandemic?
- What should the European institutions and Member States do to amplify the impact of science communication in a post-pandemic world?
- What are best practices for including science communication activities within interdisciplinary funding programmes?

Inspiration for the discussions at the workshop will be provided by the invited keynote speaker: **Professor Roger Pielke, Jr**, teaches and writes at the University of Colorado Boulder. His work focuses on a range of policy and governance issues related to science, technology, environment, innovation, and sports. **Professor Nicole Grobert** works at Department of Materials, University of Oxford and is Chair of the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors.

Key takeaways from the conference will be included and summarized in a conference statement **The Copenhagen Declaration on Science Communication in Europe**, which will be published later in the Summer of 2022.

Programme

09:00-09:30	Registration and refreshments
09:30-10:00	<p>Welcome by Johan Frederik Mau, Danish Ministry for Higher Education and Science.</p> <p>Welcome by Judith Litjens, Policy Officer & CCA Coordinator, COST Association.</p> <p>Introduction from Prof. Rémi Quirion, Chief Scientist of Quebec, President of International Network of Governmental Science Advice (INGSA).</p> <p>Introduction from Conference Chair David Budtz Pedersen, Professor of Science Communication, Aalborg University Copenhagen, COST CCA Chair.</p>
10:00-11:00	Keynote by Roger Pielke Jr. , Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Colorado Boulder: "Science Communication in a Pandemic Emergency and Beyond"
11:00-12:30	<p>Roundtable discussion 1: "Protecting the integrity of science communication". What are the challenges of science communication today, and what steps should be taken to protect the independence and integrity of science communicators?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the key enablers and barriers for securing the independence and integrity of science communicators across society?• Scientists are increasingly asked for testimony and direction to shape policies and public opinion. At the same time, knowledge is changing at a startling pace. How can scientists communicate openly about uncertainties and unknowns in the public?• The pandemic has shown that the need for scientists to engage in public dialogue has never been greater. At the same time, misinformation and distrust thrives in digital networks. How can the research community amplify democratic debates? <p>Panelists: Laura Webb (UK Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology), Alessandro Allegra (DG Research, EU Scientific Advice Mechanism), Jens Degett (Science Stories), Alexander Gerber (Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences).</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:30	<p>Roundtable discussions 2: "How to integrate science communication activities in interdisciplinary mission-oriented research and innovation programmes"?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How should future funding call be designed and worded to better enable the integration of science communication from the beginning of the research cycle?• What are best practices for integrating science communication in large-scale research practices and mission-oriented research programmes?• What are the take-aways from current projects on science communication in Europe? How can the community of science communicators create dialogue with research funders to stimulate greater and more effective integration of science communication in interdisciplinary research? <p>Panelists: Cissi Askwall (Vetenskap & Allmänhet), Annette Klinkert (EUSEA), Peter Hyldgård (Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters), Ricarda Ziegler (Wissenschaft im Dialog)</p>

14:30-15:00	Coffee
15:00-15:15	Keynote by Nicole Grobert (recorded) , Professor of Materials Chemistry, University of Oxford, and Chair of the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors: "The Indispensable Role and Impact of Science Communication for Policy-Making"
15:15-15:30	Wrap-up and concluding remarks by conference chair Prof. David Budtz Pedersen
15:30-17:00	Reception
