TEMPLATE FOR EXPLANATORY DOCUMENTS ON ERA ACTIONS FROM THE ERA POLICY AGENDA

This document is a working document and should not be considered as representative of the European Commission's official position.

Action 14.4.: Bring science closer to citizens - Propose a policy coordination mechanism on public engagement practices, including citizen involvement in scientific processes

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Description

The action consists of putting together a proposal for a mechanism that will support the mutual learning and/or coordination of policies, at national and EC levels, on practices for engaging the public in the ERA. The proposal should be the results of a debate between interested members of the ERA Forum.

Coordination of policies could mean to align, as appropriate, e.g.:

- Policies for public engagement in R&I
- Policies for engaging the public in strategic planning of R&I and policies for public engagement in deployment and use of the R&I results, including cross-government coordination

Policy coordination could aim at, e.g.:

- Strengthening MS/AC policies and initiatives based on success factors, enabling conditions, and best practice elements from other countries
- Seeking coherence and exploiting synergies between MS/AC policies and initiatives
- Following through societal engagement in research to postresearch and development phases to ensure uptake of results and incite behavioural changes
- Reinforcing links to sectoral policies via public engagement
- Identification of initiatives with high potential to be implemented in a collaborative way across the ERA such as upscaling of initiatives to transnational or European level

Challenge being addressed

- Countries at different stages of public engagement in R&I policy development, from national strategies in place since years, to no specific strategy
- Little exchange about public engagement in R&I policies, programmes and initiatives
- Little sharing of information, experience, lessons learned and good practices from initiatives

The coordination mechanism could be a network of national policy makers, e.g. set up by one/several MS/AC, or a subgroup of the ERA Forum, possibly supported by experts, to be discussed at the ERA Forum

Actions already ongoing

- Citizen Science Mutual Learning Exercise under the Policy Support Facility
- COST action on Citizen Science across the ERA
- National exercises on participatory research and deliberative debates on R&I issues

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	 'Plastic Pirates – Go Europe' initiative JRC Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy European Citizen Science Association EU-Citizen.Science online platform for sharing knowledge, tools, training and resources for citizen science, ongoing H2020 project RRI-Tools platform Citizen Science capacity-building and brokering network, project resulting from the HE ERA, 2021 call Network of practitioners and researchers in the field of democracy and civic deliberation and participation, project to result from the HE Cluster 2, 2022 call Conference on the Future of Europe
• Actors	MS/AC and the EC should propose a policy coordination mechanism and involve stakeholders.
Timing and milestones	2022: Debate between interested members of the ERA Forum 2023: Propose and set up a policy coordination mechanism
• Funding	TBC following discussion at the ERA Forum
Expected impact	 MS/AC policies and initiatives strengthened, and increased coherence and synergies between MS/AC activities Societal engagement prioritized from strategic planning of research, to implementation phases, to sectoral policies Transnational initiatives of public engagement practices
• Monitoring	TBC following discussion at the ERA Forum
Communication	TBC following discussion at the ERA Forum
Additional information	TBC following discussion at the ERA Forum