

NEW ERA ACTIONS FOR THE ERA POLICY AGENDA 2025-2027
TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Swedish Research Council, Cissi Askwall, 230818

Action title: <i>(Please use as a maximum two lines.)</i>	MLE on “Bring Science Closer to Citizens – policy coordination mechanism on how best to foster Science Capital
Description of the action <i>(Please explain the proposed action in a simple, clear and communicable narrative).</i>	Science literacy, scientific ability, science culture, science capital... there are several similar concepts to describe that individuals and society at large gain a lot from knowing some things about science and about how research is conducted. Many societal actors strive to increase citizens’ interest in, knowledge about and understanding of research and research results. The concept Science Capital can be used to help understanding how different factors combined affect how people feel about and engage with science. The concept has been developed by Professor Louise Archer and is used broadly as a tool for assessing and improving attitudes and actions connected to science and research. An MLE on Science Capital would gather experts from around Europe and key actors in Member States to map, learn about, analyse, sort, describe and disseminate good practices to increase people’s Science Capital.
Actors <i>(Please explain who would take part in the action and who would benefit from it).</i>	Key stakeholders from different organisations within the system for education and research in Member States + researchers and practitioners with expertise in Science Capital would take part. The results of the action would be useful for stakeholders within the system for education and research in and beyond Europe, notably decisionmakers, school teachers and rectors, employees within universities, research institutes, science centres, museums and other informal learning institutions.
Expected impact <i>(Please describe the expected impact of the action (including outside the scientific community), paying attention to the fact that it needs to focus on concrete results and reachable deliverables).</i>	Increased knowledge, more expertise and inspirational best practice in and beyond Member States on how best to foster science capital and science literacy among the public, and especially among young people.
Why do we need this action? <i>(Please indicate the need for this action in view of implementing the Pact for R&I and achieving the ERA objectives and explain why its <u>objective cannot be reached through existing programmes/ activities</u>. What is the action’s <u>added value</u> at national and European level as well as for stakeholders? How does it <u>make a change</u> and how is <u>co-creation</u> ensured?)</i>	This action will contribute to reach several of the pact’s objectives. A key factor in order for the MS, EU and Europe as a whole to be competitive and able to solve societal challenges, is a solid science capital among citizens. Young people with science capital will be more inclined to embark on higher education programmes and the public at large will be better prepared to engage with research, detect misinformation and make science informed decisions.
Additional information <i>(For example, timing and milestones, which already could be envisaged, can be indicated.)</i>	Science capital can be defined as the sum of all the science-related knowledge, attitudes, experiences and resources that an individual builds up through their life. This includes what science they know about, what they think about science, the people they know who understand science, and the day-to-day engagement they have with science

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