COALESCE
Co-creating the EU Competence Centre for Science Communication

coalesceproject.eu

Sweden

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CASE-STUDY

National mandate

The Swedish Research Council has a government mandate to coordinate science communication. We work with a long-term approach to ensure research benefits society and encourage dialogue and collaboration between researchers and other societal actors.

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Strategy and implementation

Excerpt from the Swedish Research Council's strategic action plan for 2025–2028:
The Swedish Research Council shall contribute to the dissemination and use of scientific knowledge

The Swedish Research Council shall continue to coordinate and streamline national efforts in science communication so that research has a greater impact. The focus is primarily on strengthening the conditions for researchers, science communicators and journalists to communicate about science through access to knowledge infrastructures (channels, arenas, publications), resources and skills development (conferences, workshops, lectures and digital material).

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Main stakeholder(s) involved

- Researchers
- Science communicators
- Journalists

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Drivers & barriers

Drivers

We communicate, inspire, and develop
Promoting Advancement
Providing Platforms for Exchange
Supporting Researchers in Communication
Making Research Accessible

Barriers

Public trust is increasingly being tested: mis- or disinformation
Trust is moving into the hands of the many
The traditional ecosystem of trust is broadening

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Outcomes and impact

Review call texts
Calls for science communication
More resources to support researchers (e.g. Harassment-related)
Residency program for journalists
Co-sponsor ERA-Action: Enhance Trust in Science

Report
How key stakeholders are working to strengthen science communication in Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, as well as in Sweden and within the European Commission

→ Recommendations

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Resources & sustainability

Department of 30, approximately 6–8 working with Science Communication.
We are 2 working on the policy level

We request annual budget allocations to support strategic initiatives beyond the scope of existing projects

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Policy relevance/ Transferability

The Swedish Research Council shall continue to work towards open science, which includes science communication, open access to research data and open access to publications. **The trend towards open sources and publishing platforms affects both traditional indicators of scientific production and the financial conditions in the research system.**

The Swedish Research Council shall **contribute to the international development of policies and practices through participation in networks and organisations for developing and evaluating science communication** and co-creation with the public, such as CoARA (the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment), Science Europe and the European Science Engagement Association.

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Reflections & future directions / Take away messages

An independent research field

Part of open science

An integral part of the research process

Fosters trust in research

Contributes to excellent research

Contributes to building a democratic society

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Framework for courses in science communication

The demand for science-based knowledge has steadily grown, in line with societal challenges both rising in numbers, and also increasing in complexity. In order to share and co-create knowledge so that it benefits society, researchers need training in how to communicate, but also in how to reflect on communication. Communication and dialogue about research need to become a natural, systematically implemented part of all third cycle higher education.

The aim is to inspire higher education institutions, faculties and individuals to further develop and collaborate on science communication and communication training for doctoral students.

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