

<b>14.3. Feasibility analysis for a federated “EU Science Media Network” to ensure more factual journalistic reporting on science</b>	
<i>Contact point: DG R&amp;I.A.2.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Description</b></li> </ul>	<p>Science communication not only informs the public about facts and scientific evidence but also illustrates the broader research process and the impact of its results for society. The spread of disinformation and fake news prevents the public to make informed decisions based on facts and scientific evidence. The problem of misinformation has been especially exposed during the world-wide pandemic. While it highlighted the importance of science for society, parts of society started to question scientific methods and results. Thus, it is important to ensure more factual journalistic reporting on science.</p> <p>The 2020 Council conclusions on the new ERA “call on the Commission and the Member States to establish a European policy approach on science communication, considering a federated “EU Science Media Network” that offers access to up-to-date scientific insights on contemporary topics to the European public”. This has been taken up as an outcome of action 14 in the first ERA Policy Agenda, in the form of a feasibility analysis for a federated “EU Science Media Network” to ensure more factual journalistic reporting on science.</p> <p>To achieve this outcome, a study as part of the WIDERA part of the research framework programme could be considered to further explore the possibilities of establishing an “EU Science Media Network”.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Actors</b></li> </ul>	<p>This action outcome was first mentioned in the ERA Action Priorities in the 2020 Council conclusions on the new ERA. Member States proposed the outcome to be included in the first ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24 and thus there should be interest by some Member States in the implementation.</p> <p>Additionally, there could be interactions with other services working on Disinformation, such as the Commission’s Disinformation Network, as well as the European Science-Media Hub, set up by the European Parliament to create a network between scientists and media to make information available to journalists, media and citizens.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Timing and milestones</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– First semester 2022: Debate between interested members of the ERA Forum</li> <li>– Second semester 2022: Propose a call for the feasibility analysis to be included in the WIDERA research framework programme 2023-24</li> <li>– After the feasibility study: discussion of possible follow-up actions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Funding</b></li> </ul>	<p><i>Identification of different sources of funding (EU, national, private, etc.) and if possible projected amounts.</i></p> <p>Funding for a study could be foreseen within the 2023-24 WIDERA</p>

*TEMPLATE FOR EXPLANATORY DOCUMENTS ON ERA ACTIONS FROM THE ERA POLICY AGENDA*  
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	research framework programme.
• <b>Expected impact</b>	– Study on the feasibility for a federated “EU Science Media Network”
• <b>Monitoring</b>	TBC following discussion at the ERA Forum
• <b>Communication</b>	TBC following discussion at the ERA Forum
• <b>Additional information</b>	--