



*Welcome to the international course on*

# Science Communication for Societal Impact

14-18 September, hosted online from Delft

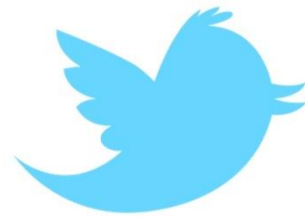
**AESIS**

NETWORK FOR  
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE

 **TU**Delft



# DAY 3

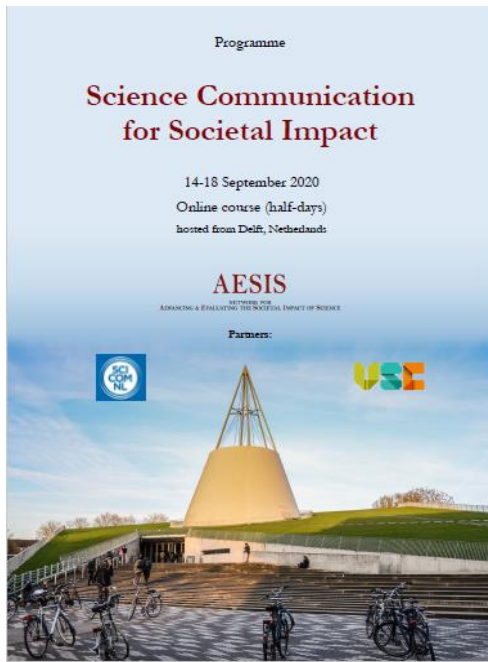


#SciCOM20  
@AESISNET

# Science Communication for Societal Impact

14-18 September 2020

## OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE



Monday 14 September – Welcome and Introduction to Science Communication for Impact  
Joost Ravoo & Roy Meijer, and Paul Manners

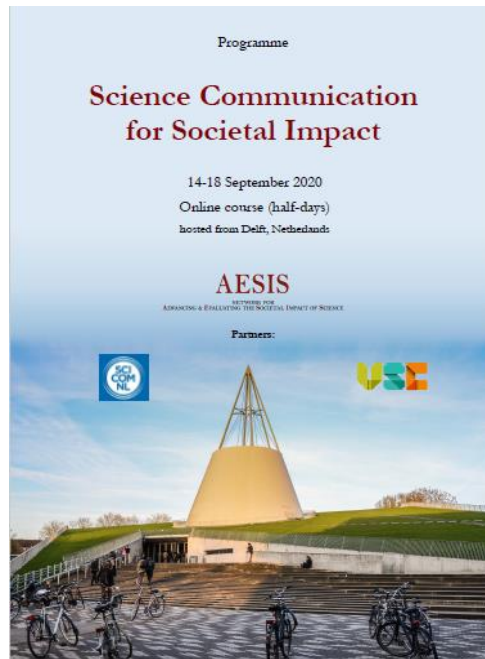
Tuesday 15 September – Science communication, university strategies, obstacles and criteria  
Maarten van der Sanden & Alex Verkade

Wednesday 16 September – Facilitating science communication to society and lessons learned from COVID-19  
**Cissi Askwall and Anna Maria Fleetwood & Stefanie Molthagen-Schnöring**

Thursday 17 September – Connecting Organisations for Societal Impact and Public & Policy Engagement  
Ben Vivekanandan & Emily Jesper

Friday 18 September- Science Gallery Rotterdam: Science Communication and Societal Impact  
Fred Balvert  
Case study presentations

## OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S PROGRAMME



### **Anna Maria Fleetwood & Cissi Askwall**

#### **Facilitating Science Communication to Society**

- ‘I want to, but there is no time’- *Researchers views on communication and Open Science*
- Support researchers to succeed in their communication
- Communicating science in a post-truth era

### **Stefanie Molthagen-Schnöring**

#### **Learnings from the COVID-crisis for Science Communication**

- New challenges for science
- Failure and success of science communication
- The way ahead: applicability of old rules?

**Anna Maria  
Fleetwood**

*Senior Adviser External  
Relations, Swedish Research  
Council*

**Cissi  
Askwall**

*Secretary General at Public  
& Science, Sweden*



Anna Maria Fleetwood



Cissi Askwall



# Researcher study in Sweden 2019

- Web based questionnaire
- Distributed by Ipsos
- Random sample

31 universities

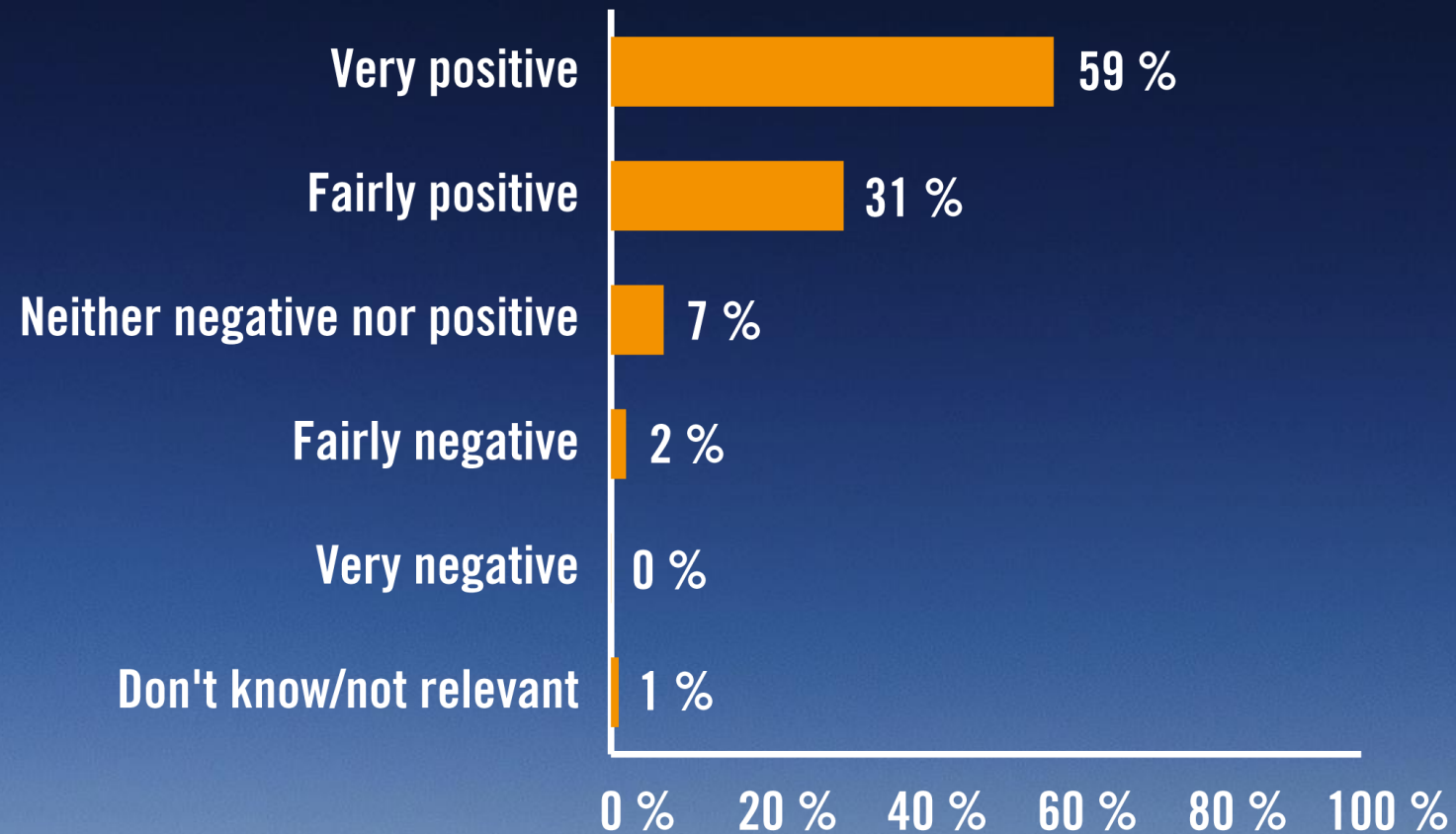


21,073 invitations



3,699 answers = 18 %

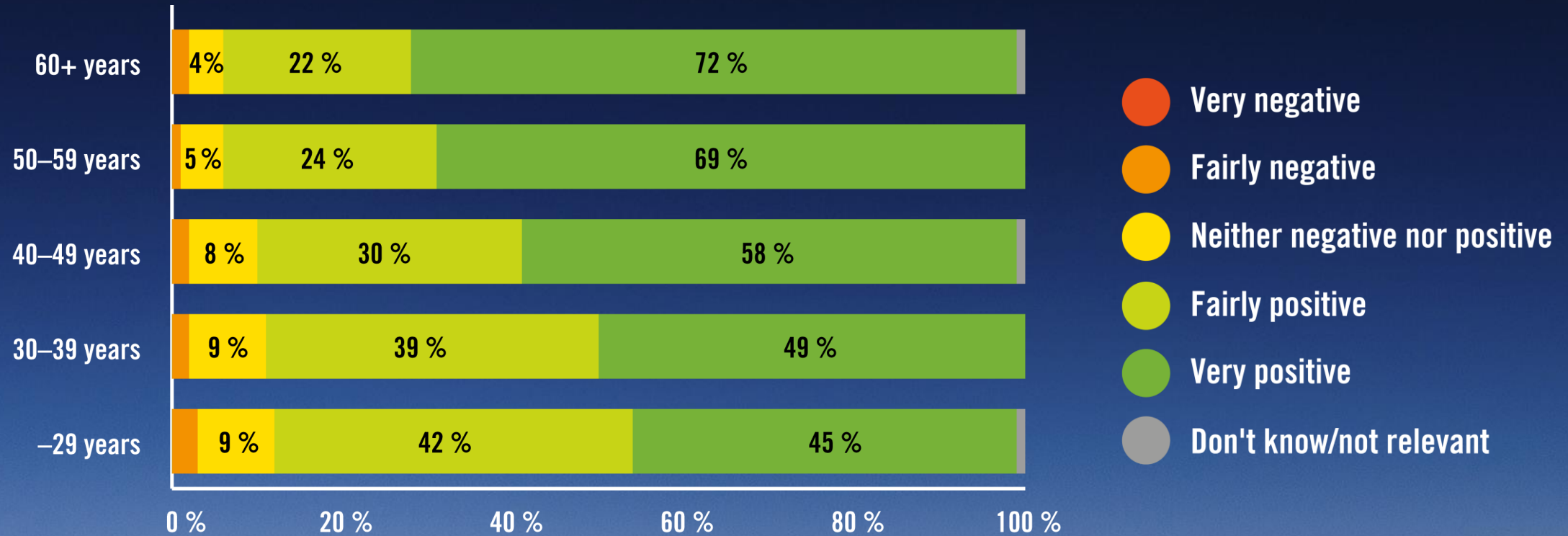
## Overall, what is your personal attitude to communicating your research with the outside world?



(Figure 2, VA Report 2019:8)



## Overall, what is your personal attitude to communicating your research with the outside world?



(Figure 4, VA Report 2019:8)

**Which groups or parts of society (outside academia) do you think it important for you to communicate with about your research? Select all those that you agree with.**



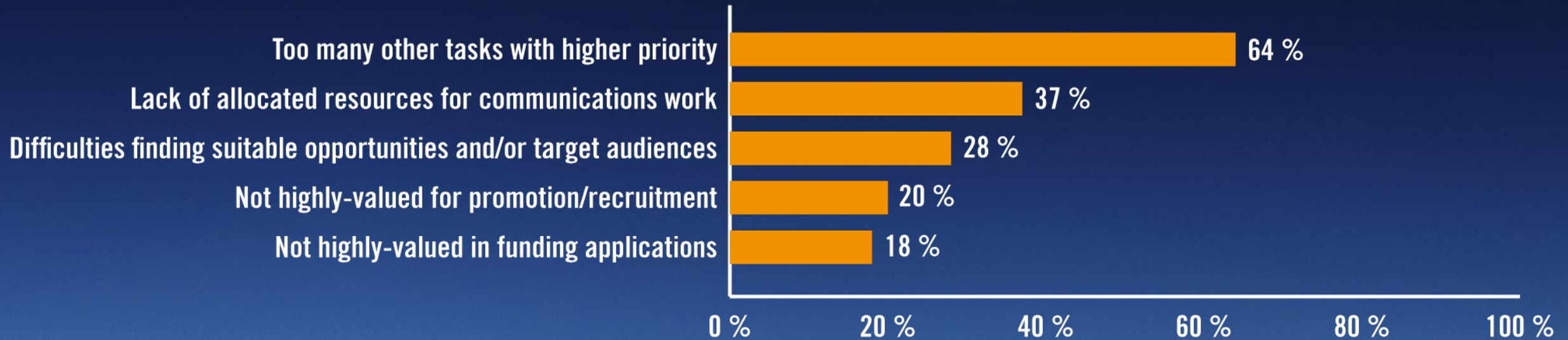
(Figure 11, VA Report 2019:8)

**During the past twelve months, have you communicated your research with any of the following groups? Select all that apply.**



(Figure 14, VA Report 2019:8)

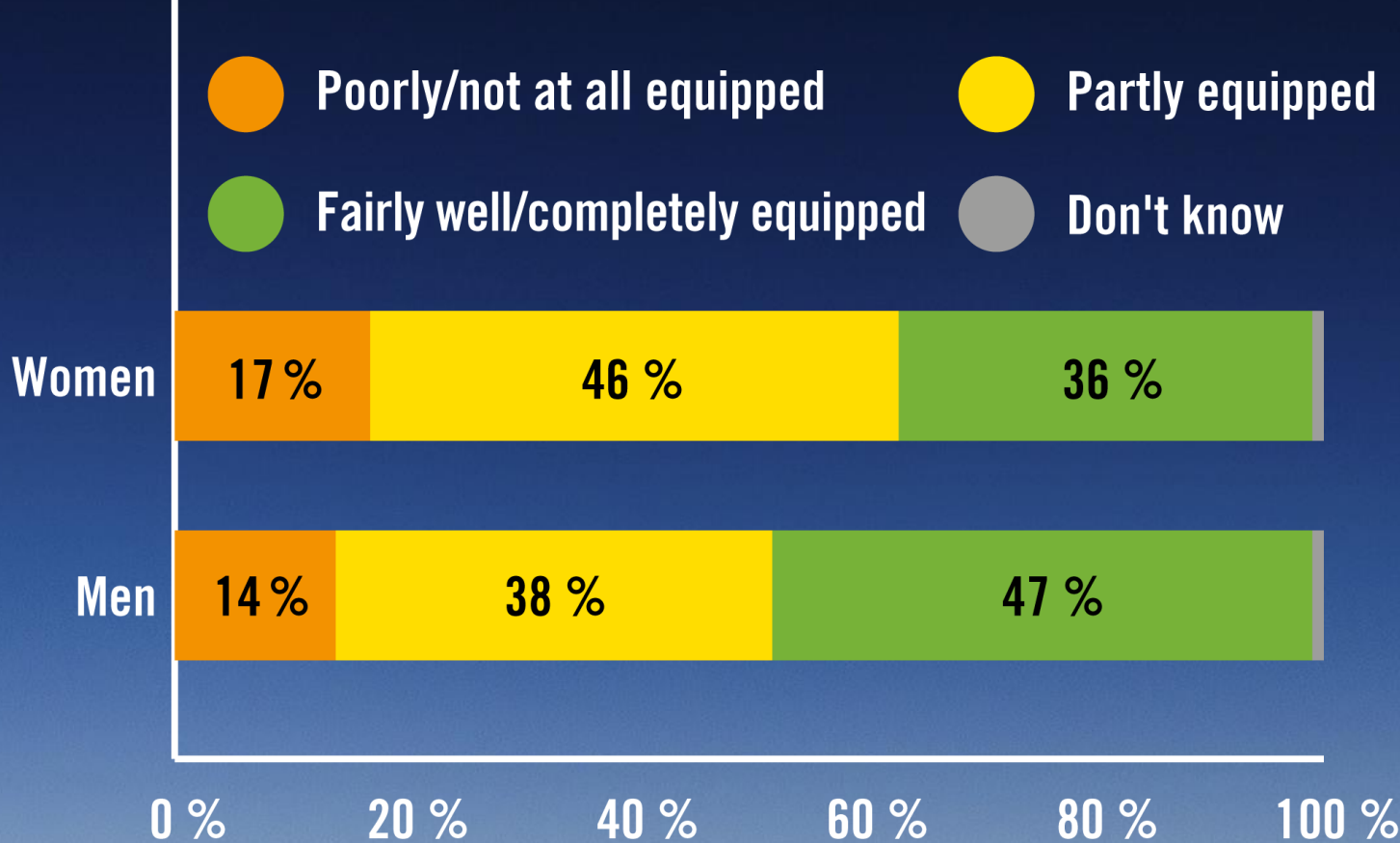
**What are the biggest barriers you face when communicating your research with the outside world? Select *up to three* (3) options..**



(Figure 22, VA Report 2019:8)



**Overall, how well equipped do you feel you are to communicate your research with the outside world?**



(Figure 19, VA Report 2019:8)

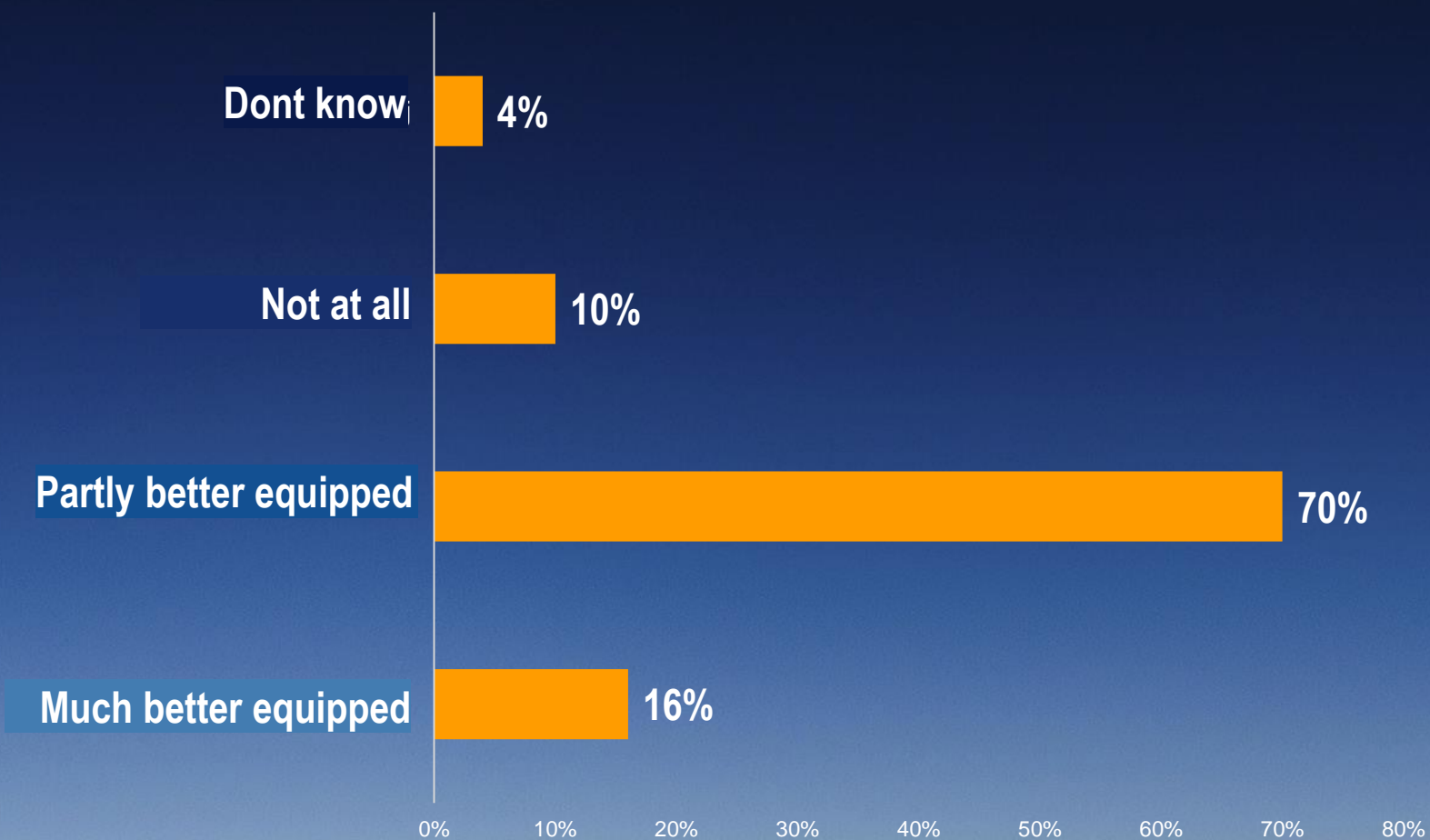


## Have you ever undertaken any course/training on how to communicate research with the outside world?



(Figure 23, VA Report 2019:8)

**You answered that you have taking part in some course/training in communication. Do you feel that this made you better prepared or equipped to communicate?**



## Would you like to spend more or less time than you currently do communicating your research with the outside world?



(Figure 29, VA Report 2019:8)

**What would encourage you to spend more time on communication with the outside world? Select *up to three* (3) options**



(Figure 33, VA Report 2019:8)



# Key findings

- **Researchers want to communicate!**
- Researchers need support and training
- Female researchers need it more than male
- Lack of suitable opportunities to communicate

## RESEARCHERS' VIEWS ON COMMUNICATION AND OPEN SCIENCE IN SWEDEN

*English  
Summary*







# Conclusions

- 9 of 10 are positive to communicate
- A majority (51%) wants to dedicate more time to communication
- 29% wants to receive more invitations
- About one fourth (27%) have taken a course in communication
- 70% of those feel that the course made them better prepared 16% say they are much more prepared after the course
- Generally the knowledge of what kind of support the communication department can offer is low.



**To discuss:**

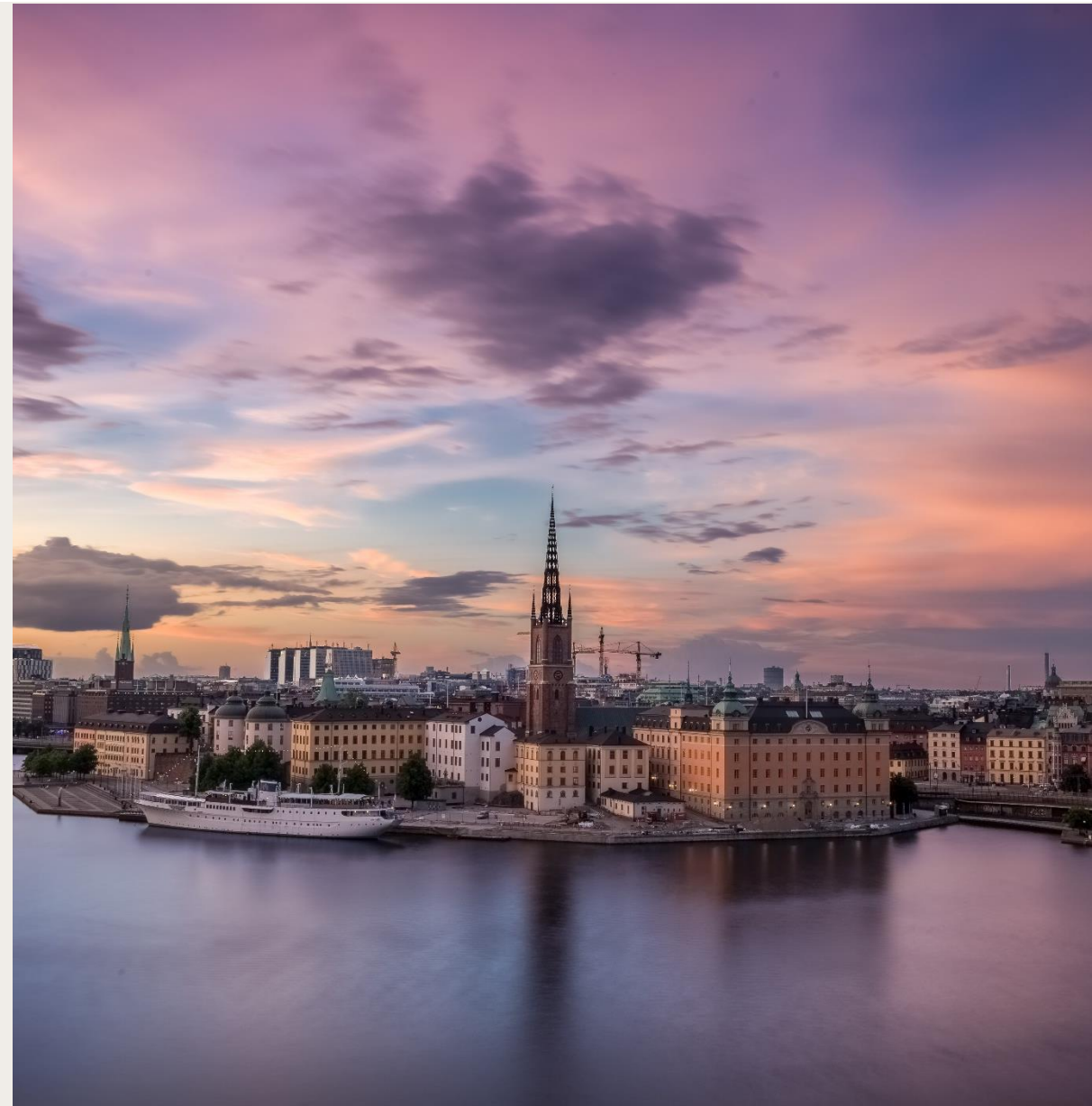
**Do the results surprise you?**

**How do they affect your work?**



# Research for a wiser world

- Provides funding for research of the highest scientific quality
- Overall responsibility for national research infrastructure
- Performs analyses and advises the government
- Promotes international collaborative research
- Coordinates and develops communication about the significance, results and conditions of research





# International Trends

## The context we leave in

- Post – truth society  
- fact resistance
- Fake news
- Place based Scicomm/public engagement
- Co-creation/Citizen Science
- Involvement with under-represented groups
- Science Gallery
- Science Literacy





# Strategy for science communication

by the Swedish Research Council

## Strategic approaches:

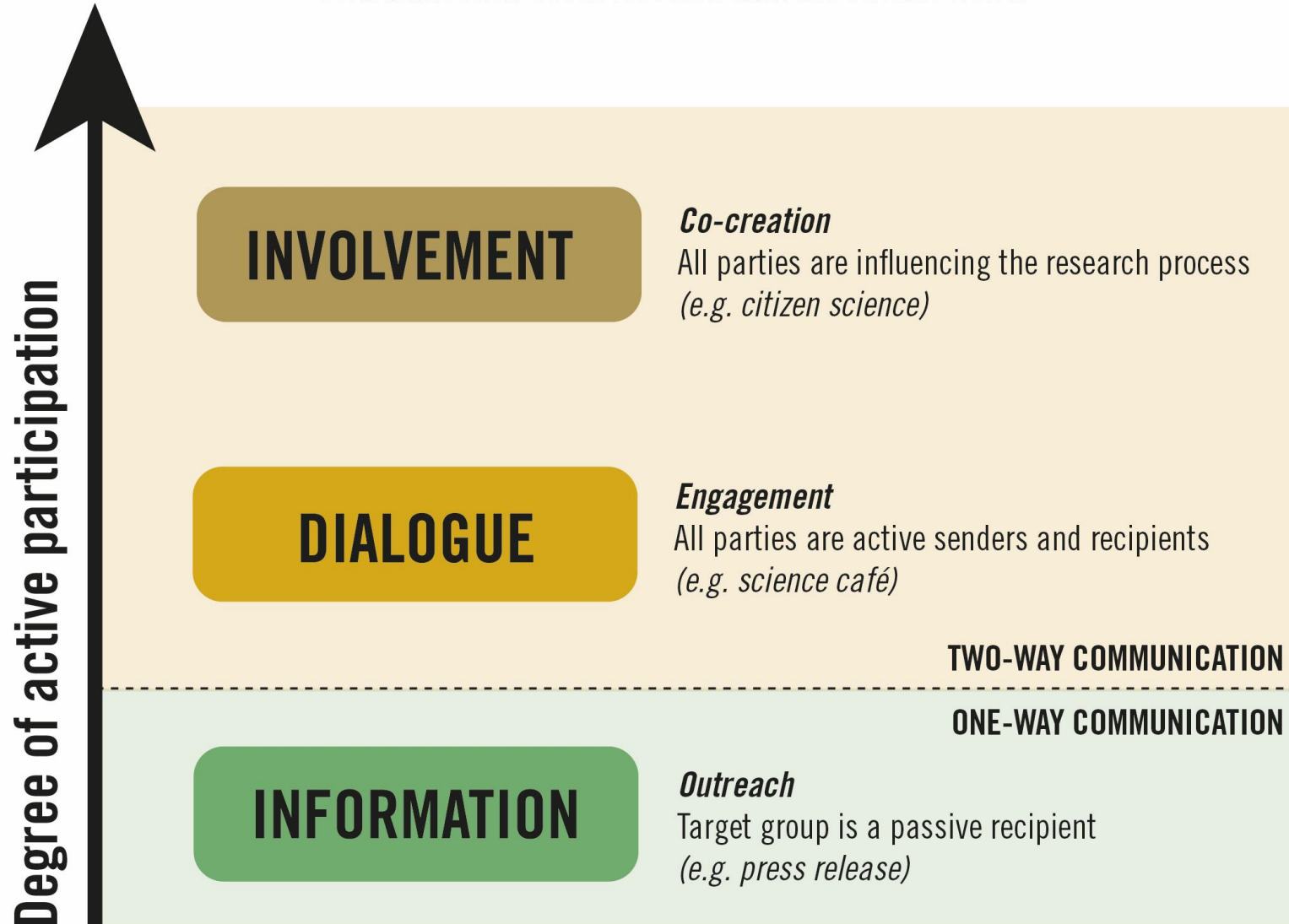
- Facilitate for and inspire researchers to communicate their research
- Reward communication and cooperation outside academia in our research funding
- Stimulate initiatives that promote and contribute to the communication of research
- Operate channels and arenas for communication about research
- Monitor international developments (active monitoring of the contemporary environment)
- Increase the understanding of the importance of researcher-initiated basic research





# SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

Communication about research with the outside world.





## Channels and arenas for communication about research





# Digital Communication




- Newsletter 114 100
- Facebook 1550
- Twitter 2890
- Page views/year: 359 334



- Newsletter 9 344
- Facebook 7 256 followers
- Twitter 9 730
- Page views /year: 3 445 100



- Journalists 4500-5000
- Universites connected 50
- Network around 320 (Science Communicators, Press officers)
- Facebook 180 followers
- Twitter 1743





# Forum for Science Communication

Largest Nordic conference and meeting place for everyone working with science communication



Vetenskapsrådet







# What's in it for me?


- Reach wider audience
- New opportunities and increased recognition
- New ideas
- Encourage next generation of scientists
- Extra citations!
- It's the law!







# Researchers' Grand Prix



**Forskar-Grand Prix 2018 - Finalen**

UR Samtiden - Forskar-Grand Prix 2018


Föreläsning - 1 tim 26 min

Besvär hos insekter till följd av blombrist, proteiner mot cancer och språkinläring. Det är några exempel på vad som bjuds på under finalen i Forskar Grand Prix - tävlingen där forskare ska förklara sin forskning för publik på bara fyra minuter. Inspelat den 27 november 2018 på Nalen i Stockholm. Arrangör: Vetenskap & Allmänhet.

Produktionsår  
2018

Tillgängligt till  
1 juli 2023

Dela programmet



Ladda ner

## WEBINAR: HOW TO EXPLAIN YOUR RESEARCH IN FOUR MINUTES

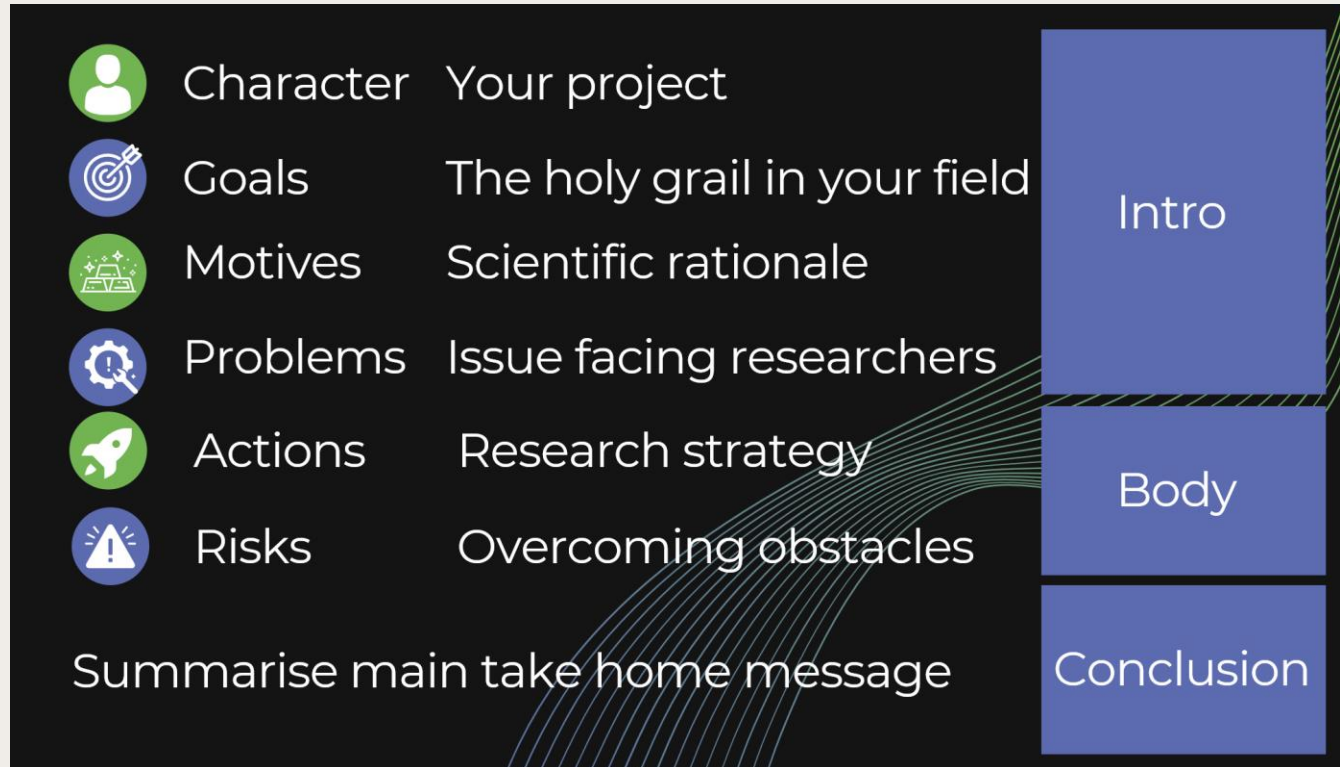
The Swedish Researchers' Grand Prix (Forskar Grand Prix) is running four free webinars for researchers interested in learning how to explain their research in quick and simple way.



The one hour webinar will provide you with the tools you need to make a presentation in the **Researchers' Grand Prix** or if you are communicating science at **European Researchers' Night**. Or you might just want to get tips on how to make your research easier to understand!



# The European Research Council





# Next steps

Education in Science Communications skills at Doctoral Studies

Earmarked funding for Science Communication

Promote research in Science Communication

Further development of infrastructure and collaboration for Science Communication







# Evidence-Based Science Communication (EBSC)

1. **Evidence-based practice:** Increase the systematic use of evidence in science communication practice to maximize effectiveness and forestall negative impacts.

2. **Evidence-based research:** Reduce questionable science communication research practices, avoid preventable methodological shortcomings and increase transparency.

Eric A. Jensen    Alexander Gerber

## Evidence-Based Science Communication (EBSC)

1. **Evidence-based practice:** Increase the systematic use of evidence in science communication practice to maximize effectiveness and forestall negative impacts.
2. **Evidence-based research:** Reduce questionable science communication research practices, avoid preventable methodological shortcomings and increase transparency.
3. **Assessing impact:** Make impact evaluation of science communication a standard expectation in communication and engagement funding with the aim of refining practices based on findings.
4. **Bridging the chasm:** Address the divides between research and practice in science communication along the entire Knowledge Cascade (see above) to enable an integrated evidence-based practice.
5. **Mutual appreciation and collaboration:** Develop initiatives to encourage both researchers and practitioners to develop mutual understanding about their needs, experiences and unique capabilities and forms of expertise.
6. Establish more effective mechanisms for exchange that work for practitioners and researchers that transcend the limitations of scholarly publishing.
7. **Recognizing applicability:** Where research results and theory can be tested in real world situations, both research and practice need incentives to engage and collaborate. More applied, or at least practice-relevant, research also requires more systematic analysis of the needs for research from the perspective of science communication practice.
8. **Collaboration:** Instead of trying to merely transfer abstract expert knowledge into practice, the science communication field needs more transdisciplinary means of collaboratively investigating and optimizing science communication from within, using real-world data to develop both research and practice through the same initiatives without compromising quality standards on either side.
9. **Revisit the raison d'être for science communication:** Promote important societal values such as social inclusion, good ethical practices and democratic participation through the design of science communication initiatives.
10. **Systematic reviews:** Produce practical guidelines to effectively inform and orient practice by distilling the best available evidence in a methodologically robust way. This should also foster replicability and replication for key topics by making methodological transparency the norm.
11. **Systemic change:** Encourage informed decision-making in the selection of science communication approaches for particular settings and circumstances, backed up by funding review processes that insist on evidence-informed approaches.
12. **Certification:** Encourage the next generation of leaders in evidence-based science communication through certification processes and standards in teaching and training.



## Escape from the Ivory tower

*Nancy Baron*

## Share your research

*Videnskab.dk*

## Eurofleets+

*Toolkit*

## Prepare for 15 min of fame

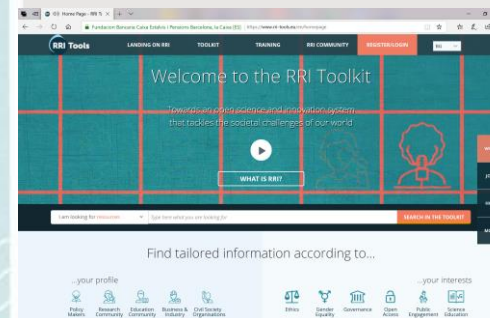
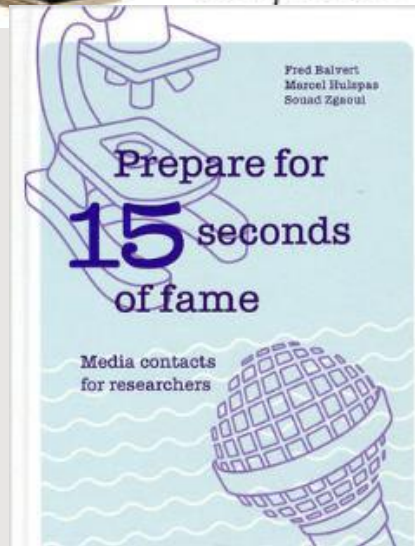
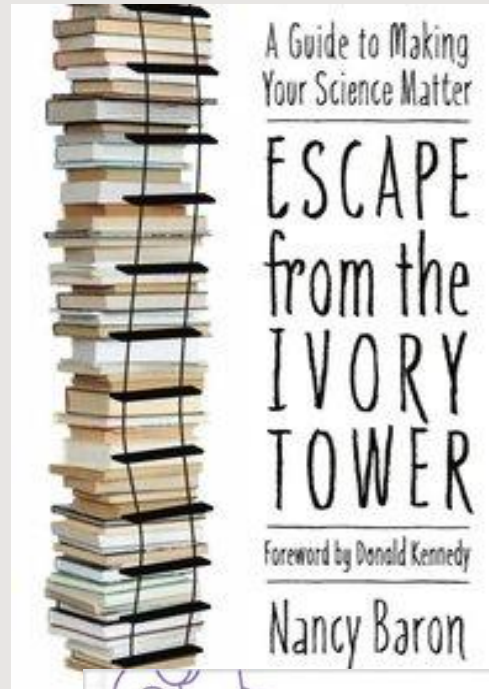
*Fred Balvert et. Al*

## Science Communication

*SIS.net*

## How to become a better speaker

*Altitude Meetings*





**To discuss:**

**How do you practically support  
researchers within your  
organisation?**

**What more would you like to do?**





**Wild conspiracy theories are infecting the Internet.**



# CORONAVIRUS EXPLAINED



START HERE

So you've heard this word 'coronavirus' a lot. And life is a little different to normal. Like maybe you're not in school or visiting friends and family. Let's understand what's happening.

## WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS?

It causes a disease called COVID-19 and it has made quite a lot of people sick. Getting it can be quite like getting the flu.

## Common symptoms

A fever (maybe feeling very hot)

A cough

A little hard to breathe

People who are older or who have other illnesses are more likely to get sicker with coronavirus. That's why we are being really careful. We could carry the germs without feeling sick, so we are staying away from people to protect each other. If someone gets the virus they will have to stay away from other people for a while. And for the small number of people who get really sick, hospitals are there to help.



## LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF

When things are different, it's totally normal to feel a little worried or angry or sad. Tell a grown up how you're feeling. It almost always helps to share these things.

Staying active will help - you can play games, sing, read, learn, chat with friends and family online or write them a letter. You can even make cleaning and tidying fun!

And try to eat healthy food, too - it can help you feel better.



# CORONAVIRUS EXPLAINED

Coronavirus: the science explained



This site lays out the evidence and facts about the virus, the disease, the epidemic, and its control

Search this site

Enter search terms

Examples: immunity, testing, "face masks"

Search





ALJAZEERA

Trump suggests injecting  
disinfectant to treat **COVID-19**

# Coronavirus Disease 2019: Myth vs. Fact



**T**here's a lot of information circulating about COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, so it's important to know what's true and what's not.

**TRUE or FALSE?** You can protect yourself from COVID-19 by injecting, swallowing, bathing in or rubbing onto your body bleach, disinfectants or rubbing alcohols.

The answer is false.



## RELATED



[Patient Safety Infographic](#)

[Coronavirus Symptoms: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Coronavirus, Social and Physical Distancing and Self-Quarantine](#)

[COVID-19: How to Help Teens Cope at Home](#)





**RELIABILITY**

per cent  
meter

20

30

40

50

60

70

80

90

100



# The News Evaluator



**3 questions to evaluate news items' credibility:**

- **Who is the sender and what is the purpose?**
- **Which is the evidence for given claims – and how trustworthy is it?**
- **What do other independent sources say?**

**[Nyhetsvarderaren.se](http://Nyhetsvarderaren.se)**



# March for Science 2017





# #hur vet du det?



## Hur vet du det?

Politiker måste ta hänsyn till mycket: vetenskap, värderingar, ekonomi, opinion och attityder i samhället. Olika delar väger tyngst i olika frågor och det är viktigt att veta varför. Därför behöver politiker vara öppna med vad förslag och beslut bygger på, och kunna ta del av och bedöma vetenskapliga underlag.

## Vad är sammanhanget?

Forskningsresultat kan vinklas och tolkas på olika sätt. Något kan ha ökat med 2 procent under ett år, men minskat med 20 procent över en tioårsperiod. Vad är mest betydelsefullt? Vem använder vilken siffra och varför?



## Går det att förklara enklare?

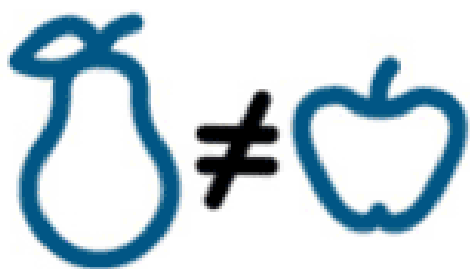


Det är lätt att bli bländad av svåra ord och krångliga formuleringar. Ibland används de när någon inte lärt sig förklara på ett enkelt sätt, ibland för att dölja osäkerhet och slippa granskning. Därför måste vi fortsätta fråga tills vi förstår.

## Kan f... ha...

Alla människor kan granskas både ny... andra forskare. Gran... av vetenskapen, m... ibland slinker fel... ningar igenom.

## att jämföra?



En studie på möss säger inte alltid något om människor. Forskning om några individer kan inte överföras till hela befolkningen. Att två resultat stämmer överens betyder inte självklart att orsaken är densamma. Se upp

## Vad säger andra studier?

Ju fler studier som kommer fram till samma resultat, desto stabilare blir kunskapen. När en studie kommer fram till ett visst resultat medan andra pekar på motsatsen finns det anledning att vara extra försiktig.



## Är det för bra för att vara sant?

Ibland beskrivs något som ett vetenskapligt genombrott. I vissa fall är det så, men oftast inte. Forskning bygger på tidigare kunskap

## Är det hela bilden?

Det kan vara frestande att luta sig mot studier som bekräftar våra egna åsikter. Men om vi vill basera beslut på vetenskap måste vi se till den samlade kunskapen på området - även när den inte stämmer med vår världsbild.



## Fråga SMARTAR

Politiker s... vetenskap sk... förslag. Me... vill vi låta ve... ta större p... Våga f...

[www.hu...](http://www.hu...)

#hurvetd...  
obunden i...

**ASK FOR  
EVIDENCE**





**UNCERTAINTY  
AHEAD**



# OPEN SCIENCE





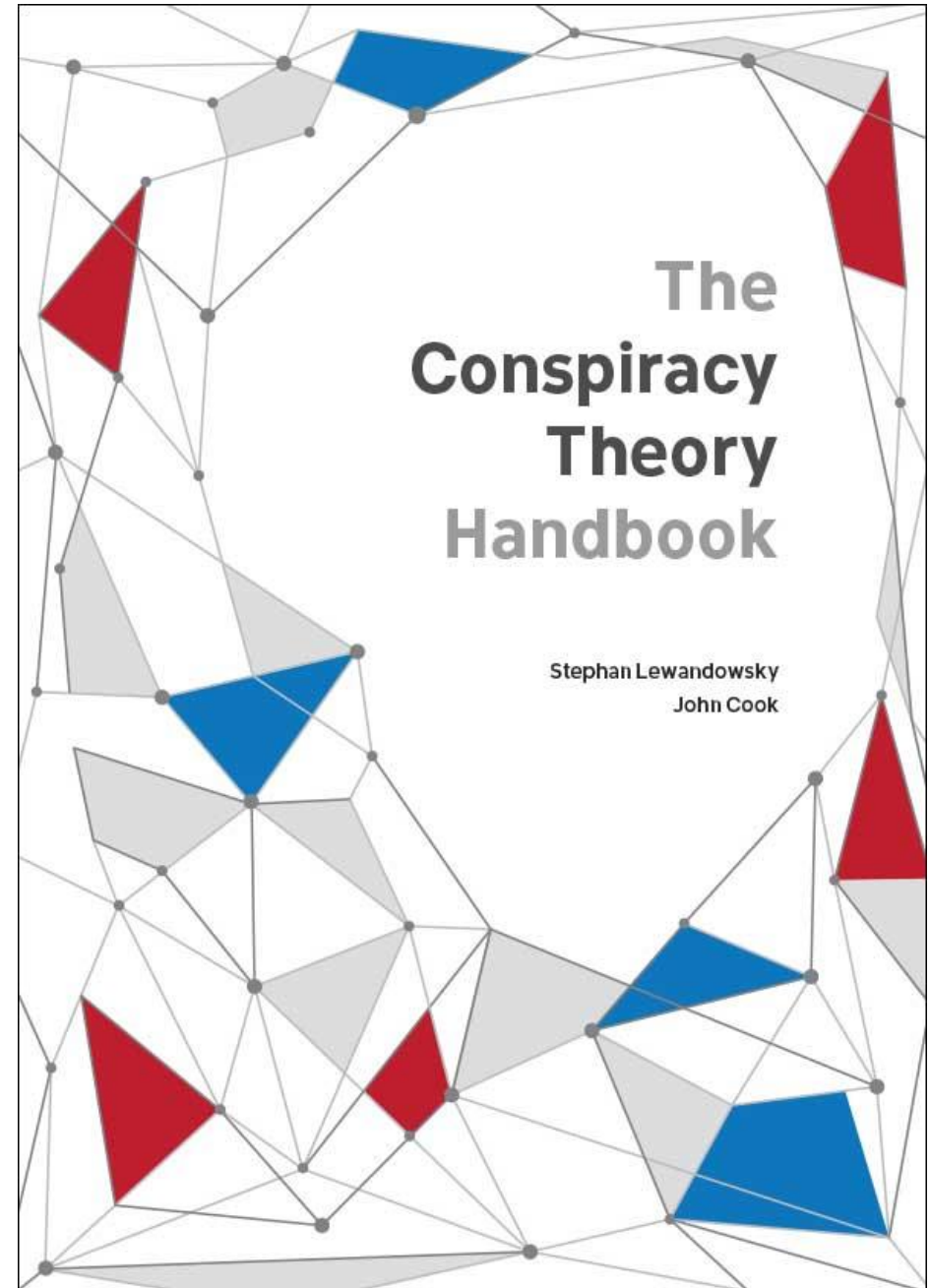
# Debunking

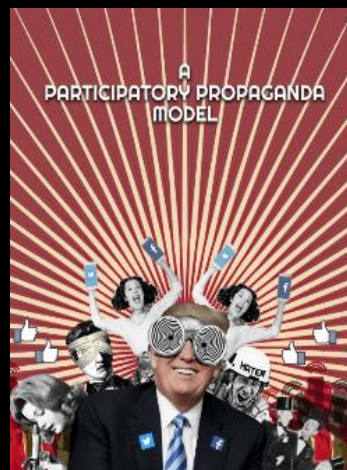
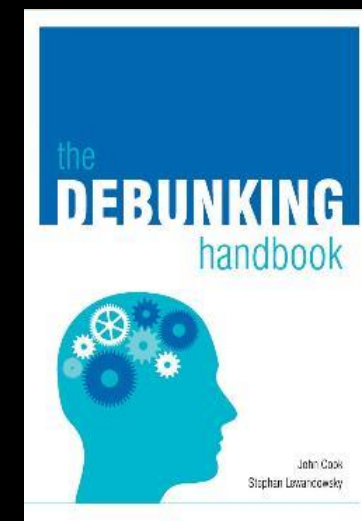
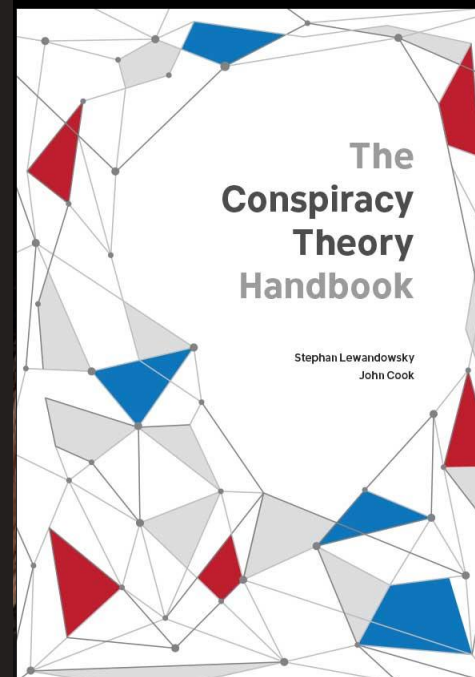
Can be based on:

- Logic
- Source
- Facts
- Empathy
- Links to fact-checkers

To debunk:

- Use trusted messengers
- Show empathy
- Affirm critical thinking
- Avoid ridicule









**To discuss:**

**Which infodemic related challenges have you experienced?**

**How do you respond to them? Any examples?!**



Swedish  
Research  
Council



**Vetenskap & Allmänhet**

VA – PUBLIC & SCIENCE



Anna Maria Fleetwood  
Senior Adviser External Relations  
[anna.maria.fleetwood@vr.se](mailto:anna.maria.fleetwood@vr.se)



Cissi Askwall  
Secretary General  
[cissi@v-a.se](mailto:cissi@v-a.se)

# Break

*We will be back at 10.07 (GMT+2)*

# Break

*We will be back at 11.15 (GMT+2)*



# Stefanie Molthagen- Schnöring

*Vice President for Research and Transfer, HTW Berlin*

# Break

*We will be back at 12.10 (GMT+2)*

## CASE STUDY PREPARATION

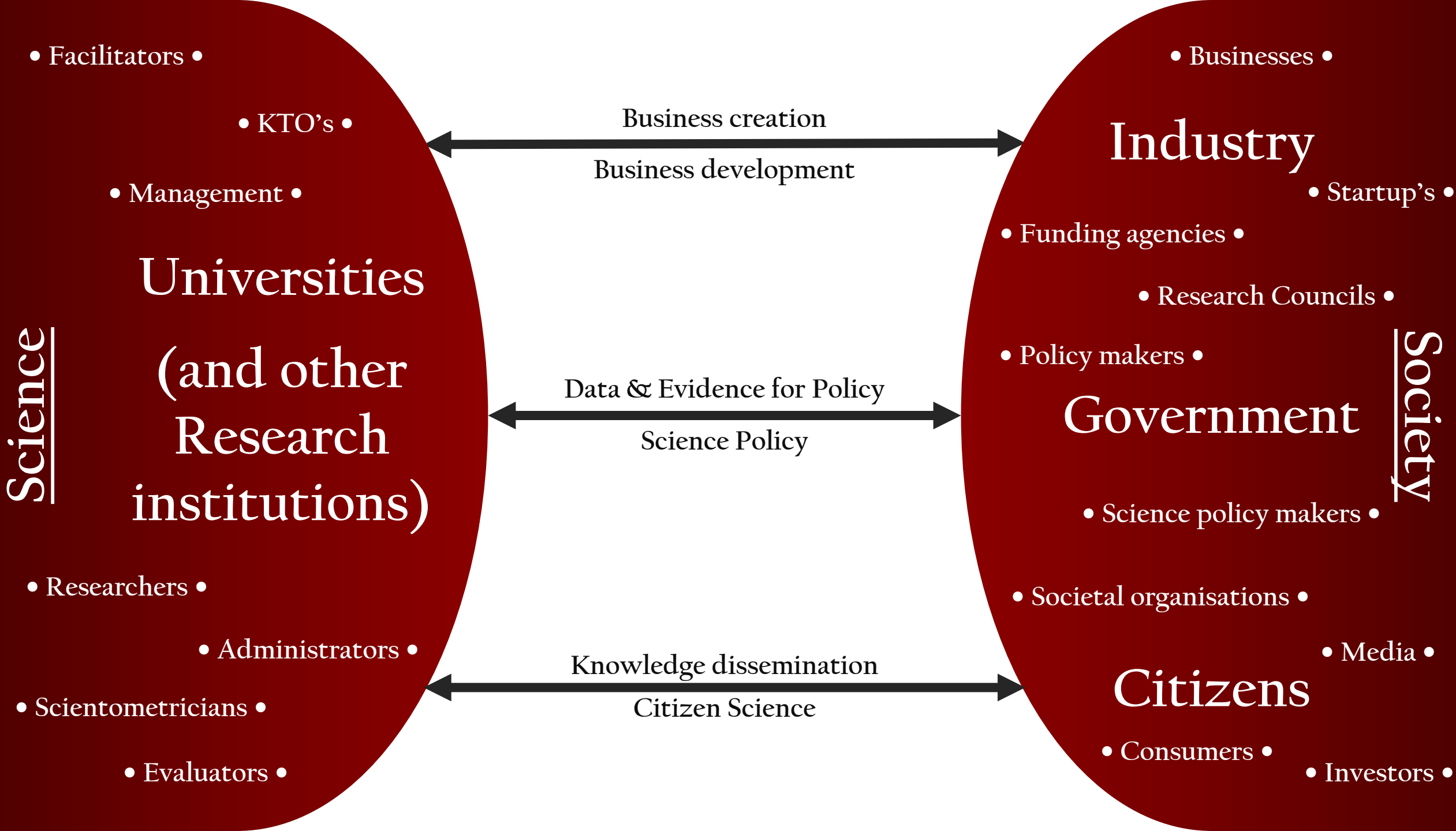
*A proposal to improve the societal impact of your institute  
by integrating effective science communication methods and tools*

### Stakeholders

Identify stakeholders with respect to achieving your goals, internally

Discuss the different benefits from the perspectives of the different stakeholders

How to address the stakeholders and convince them to be involved (aka communication for science communication)?





## CASE STUDY PREPARATION

*A proposal to improve the societal impact of your institute  
by integrating effective science communication methods and tools*

### Impact

What is needed to connect science communication and societal impact and strengthen this bond?  
How would you describe success? Assessing the effectiveness of science communication, the societal impact, or something else?

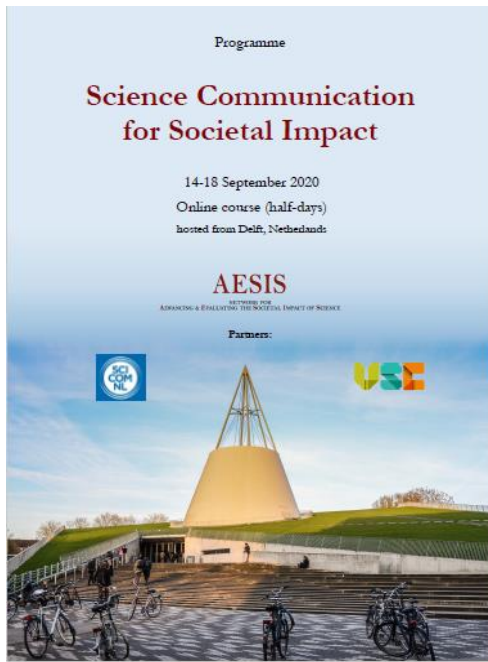
# Lingering questions....

**Thank you**

*Enjoy lunch!*



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