

The annual, international conference on:

Impact of Science

*Stimulating societal impact of science by building stronger,
long-term structures for knowledge and data exchange,
as well as Public-Private collaboration*

22-24 June 2022

Leiden, the Netherlands

AESIS

NETWORK FOR
ADVANCING & EVALUATING THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF SCIENCE

In partnership with:



ELSEVIER



BACKGROUND

The need for science to tackle challenges our world faces is not a new phenomenon, but has increasingly grown on a global scale, with the world facing pandemics, environmental changes and societal struggles. Policymakers, businesses and other societal actors are increasingly aware of the value of scientific data and knowledge to support them in overcoming challenges, but in many cases the interaction between worlds is not structured or stable enough. For the 10th time in a row AESIS will be organising their annual conference on Societal Impact of Science, to bring together stakeholders in- and outside of the science eco-system to engage with each other on the most effective and approaches for implementing policies, strategies, methods and tools to optimise societal impact of science and evaluate success.

This year the international conference will be hosted in Leiden, the Netherlands. For many years initiatives have existed and been developed to build a strong infrastructure of collaboration between scientific institutions and societal actors, between public and private organisations, with the purpose of increasing interaction and mutual benefits. Researchers and policy makers have recently started building a more permanent structure to create alliances for impact, meanwhile strong collaboration between industry and science has existed in the thematic clusters called Topsectors for years. The Research Council of the Netherlands has been greatly investing in the Dutch Research Agenda (NWA) and the VSNU continues improving their evaluation of scientific relevance in their Strategy Evaluation Protocol. These are only a few of the examples of good-practices and expertise that convinced AESIS to invite everyone to the Netherlands for this conference.

This conference will feature highly regarded and internationally recognised experts who will be discussing the contribution of research to the quality of life and well-being. The conference expects over 350 participants from more than 30 countries, bringing together experts such as R&D evaluators, university managers, research councils, policy makers, funders, and other stakeholders of impact. The goal is sharing, evaluating, and discussing best practices around the world on: policy strategies for societal impact, creating (long-term) alliances between stakeholders; regional, national, and international instruments for evaluating and achieving impact; current issues on i.e. public engagement, evidence-based policy, interdisciplinary approaches, and, harmonising definitions and assumptions. We are very excited to be working with our colleagues in the Netherlands and else where in the world to create the most valuable programme and experience for all of you who would like to learn about and contribute to science transforming the world. And we very much look forward to meeting you there!

AESIS Advisory Board

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Paul Wouters	Dean of Social and Behavioural Sciences & former Director of CWTS, Leiden University, the Netherlands

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE (draft)

WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2022

Social Programme	Visit to the Leiden university facilities to see good-practices of impact, as well as a guided tour of the city's highlights Available to all attendees
Welcoming Reception	First opportunity to meet informally and get to know others, at Hortis Botanicus Available to all attendees
Welcoming Dinner	Unique opportunity to meet in a smaller setting during a dinner offered by AESIS. Possibly with a thematic speaker and/or strategic seating For speakers and partner representatives

THURSDAY 23 JUNE 2022

Opening Plenary session	Transforming policies and strategies for impact E.g. NWA or ZonMw (NL), Impact Framework NRF (SA), KEF (UK), DORA, E&I (AU), International Research Council, etc.
Parallel sessions, round 1	Collaboration between science and society for greater impact E.g. with industry, evidence informed policymaking, public engagement, co-creation, open science, business development, etc
Parallel sessions, round 2	Demonstrating and evaluating societal impact of science E.g. National and regional evaluation systems, developing an impact profile, responsible metrics, methods and tools for assessment, etc
Closing Plenary panel	Most prominent obstacles for improving societal impact of science Introduction speech on showcasing current alliances, followed by an interactive panel of experts in which the audience votes for the most pressing questions they would like the panellists to discuss.
Conference Dinner	Everyone at the conference is welcome to join this informal dinner in Leiden

FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2022

Opening Plenary session	Building a stronger infrastructure between science and societal stakeholders E.g. Topsector (NL), African Research Universities Alliance or AAU (US), CAPE or Parliament UK, TIK/NIFU (NO), ARIS & Research Impact Canada, etc
Round Table sessions	Interactive round table session in smaller group covering topics that are most important to our partners and participants
Parallel sessions, round 3	Institutional developments for improving societal impact of science E.g. Training and facilities for impact, institutional strategy and leadership, research development, Team-science and interdisciplinarity, funding approaches, etc
Closing Plenary panel	Recommendations for the Dutch Science Eco-system and beyond