

SCIENCE EUROPE PRESS RELEASE

Let's Talk About the Value of Research, Not Just Its Impact

(Brussels, 11 July 2017) The Position Statement 'On a New Vision for More Meaningful Research Impact Assessment' is released today by Science Europe.

There are countless ways in which research brings its immense value to society. Some of this value is indirect or intangible and cannot easily be measured by strictly defined impact assessment criteria. Other parts of it are long-term or unpredictable and may not yet be visible at the time that the research is evaluated.

Science Europe advocates using the notion of 'value' of research. This is wider than 'impact' and reflects the intrinsic value of scientific research and its capacity to generate new knowledge. Adopting a broader notion of research impact, enriched by societal value, will contribute to making impact assessment more meaningful.

The statement provides a series of key principles and actions for policy makers and research organisations to help bring forward a new vision for impact assessment. This vision recommends to do justice to the broad range of benefits coming from high-quality research, by maximising its potential for generating societal value. The recent report by the 'High Level Group on maximising impact of EU Research and Innovation Programmes' recommends to "capture and better communicate impact". With this document, Science Europe contributes to a better understanding of impact and its assessment, as a precondition to capturing and communicating it.

"Impact assessments can be very powerful tools if they are adapted to the specific objectives of the research being evaluated, and if they are based on a broader understanding of the value of research than just short-term economic indicators", says Stephan Kuster, Acting Director of Science Europe. "This Position Statement provides principles and actions, developed in collaboration with evaluation professionals and accomplished scientists, that help to improve impact narratives for policy makers and advance the practice and use of research impact assessment", he added.

The full statement can be downloaded at <http://scieur.org/impact-pos>

Notes to Editors

Science Europe is an association of major European research funding and research performing organisations in 27 countries, established in 2011 to promote the collective interest of its members and to foster collaboration between them. For more information see: www.scienceeurope.org.

Report of the 'High Level Group on maximising impact of EU Research and Innovation Programmes': <http://bit.ly/2tYJibH>

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