

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn
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The dialogue between science and the rest of society has never been more important.

As the Europe 2020 Strategy makes clear, to overcome the current economic crisis we need to create a smarter, greener economy, where our prosperity will come from research and innovation. Science is the basis for a better future and the bedrock of a knowledge-based society and a healthy economy.

In the search for prosperity, jobs and a better life for everyone, research, innovation and new technologies present us with many different choices and many possible paths to follow.

Researchers, policy makers, business people, innovators and most of all, the general public, have difficult choices to make as regards how science and technology can help tackle our different societal challenges – whether climate change, healthy ageing or sustainable management of our resources, to name but a few.

After ten years of action at EU level to develop and promote the role of science in society, at least one thing is very clear: we can only find the right answers to the challenges we face by involving as many stakeholders as possible in the research and innovation process. Research and innovation must respond to the needs and ambitions of society, reflect its values, and be responsible. To my mind, there are a number of keys to doing this.

The first key is to engage people and civil society organisations in the research and innovation process. We know that solutions to the grand challenges we face cannot be purely technological. Innovations also come from the creativity of non-specialists and civil society organisations working with researchers, businesses and policy makers. Different perspectives bring different and, sometimes, better solutions.

All relevant actors should be on board, women as well as men. The second key, therefore, is 'gender'. It is both unfair and economically unwise to squander any of our talents, female or male! We need women at all levels of the research hierarchy and we also need to ask ourselves if the gender perspective is relevant when developing products, processes and services.

Our economy needs more researchers and innovators, and an increasingly technological world means people need to be better informed about science issues. This is why the third key, excellent science education, is so important. We will educate more researchers, and the general public will be in a better position to understand and engage in debate on the most important science issues affecting society.

A fourth key is open access to scientific information and research results funded by public money. The fruits of publicly-funded research should be more easily available to other researchers and innovators. We are already testing an open access pilot under the 7th Framework Programme and will expand this approach under Horizon 2020.

The fifth key is ethics. Surveys have shown that the general public wants developments in research, technology and innovation to be guided by the principles of trust, integrity and participation. More specifically, people also want to be involved, where possible, in decisions regarding new technologies when cultural, environmental, social and ethical values come into play.

The sixth key is our duty as policy-makers to shape a governance framework that encourages responsible research and innovation. Policymakers also have a responsibility to prevent harmful or unethical developments in research and innovation, for example by using ethics reviews and audits, as we do in the 7th Framework Programme for Research.

We can only achieve all these goals if we have the help of stakeholders. That is why a forum for discussion like the "Science in Dialogue" conference is so important, so I would like to thank the Danish Presidency and the conference organisers for creating this event.

We have tried to engage as many stakeholders as possible in the development of our Horizon 2020 proposals. During the extensive public consultation, we received inputs from governments, research organisations, businesses, civil society organisations, policy-makers and individuals.

Horizon 2020 will support the six keys to responsible research and innovation that I just mentioned, and will highlight responsible research and societal engagement throughout the programme. We will take every opportunity to get science professionals and interested citizens talking and working together.

In addition, this summer, the Commission will propose a framework for the European Research Area where issues such as Open Access and Gender equality in research content will be addressed.

None of those initiatives would be possible without the commitment of the "*Science in Society*" community that has been growing in recent years.

I have great expectations for the Science in Dialogue conference, and we will do our best to integrate your good ideas into our policies and actions to ensure responsible research and innovation in Europe!

Thank you.