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CITIZENS AND SCIENCE AS A TOOL TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY

Sapienza University of Rome, 6 April 2022, Rome

Workshop organized in partnership with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation within the Italian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Presentation

Education and science have an inarguable impact on society: public engagement, scientific communication and scientific advice for policy-makers are only a few examples of how the "third mission of the university", the effort to generate knowledge outside academic environments to the benefit of the social, cultural and economic development, is implemented. These efforts also support a well-functioning democracy.

As the primary institution for original scientific research, it is a university's responsibility to support civic values through active engagement, contribute to public and evidence-based debates, counter misinformation, engage in projects that build bridges and foster understanding throughout society.

Critical thinking and scientific communication often influence the public conversation around democracy. Equally, politics becomes more credible and reliable when it is supported by scientific evidence. The COVID-19 crisis demonstrated the crucial role science plays in supporting government policies. The world watched while emerging data about the pandemic influenced policy written to preserve public health while protecting fundamental freedoms.

The event – organised with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and within the Italian Presidency of the Council of Europe – aims to stimulate discussion among decision- and policy-makers, the scientific community, and relevant stakeholders on strengthening democracy through science.

The participant speakers will offer their views on several topics, such as scientific communication, the links between higher education, science and public engagement, the social dimension and the inclusiveness of higher education, and how the ethics of science, such as transparency and integrity, intersect in education and research.

Promotori

In collaborazione con