

Mutual Learning Exercise on Public Engagement in R&I

Abstracts of Public Engagement practices presented at the dissemination event
Brussels, 1 April 2025

PE Best practices by MLE members

[Wissenschaftsjahre – Science Years, Germany](#)

The Science Years are the BMBF's (the Federal Ministry of Education and Research) central activity in science communication. Each year, the focus is on a new, interdisciplinary topic of the future. The Year of Science projects are intended to engage the public with research and to promote dialogue.. The Science Year is a joint initiative of BMBF and Science in Dialogue, the German organisation for science communication.

[Creating Our Future, Ireland](#)

Creating Our Future was Ireland's national conversation on research and received over 18,000 submissions in 2021-2022, demonstrating that the people of Ireland want their voices to be heard and that they have confidence in the promise and potential of research to transform lives and create sustainable societies.

[Science Without Lessons, Lithuania](#)

Science Without Lessons is a podcast series by Vilnius University, broadcast on national radio. It aims to engage the public with scientific topics by sparking curiosity, broadening perspectives, and encouraging critical thinking. In-depth conversations with Vilnius University researchers challenge established beliefs and provide fresh insights.

[Wijkwijis: community-led research, the Netherlands](#)

Science and society see the need for more interactions, through dialogue and active engagement. Dutch initiatives such as the 'neighbourhood universities' want to provide space for mutual exchange. Here, we highlight the Rotterdam-based initiative Wijkwijis which aims to reach a local yet diverse audience, offer more interaction and provide a platform for community-led research for the citizens of Rotterdam: research for, together with and by the community.

[Mesec znanosti – Science Month, Slovenia](#)

Science Month is an initiative by the Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, which combines science communication, science promotion and public engagement in Research & Innovation through a series of events in cooperation with the scientific community and civil society. It provides a platform for joint interactions between the research community, public policy representatives and the public. In 2025, Science Month is celebrating its 10th anniversary and will integrate in its programme some lessons learned through the MLE on Public Engagement.

[Borrow a researcher, Sweden](#)

The concept, in which schools are invited to borrow a researcher, has proven to be a popular and successful part of ForskarFredag (Swedish European Researchers' Night) for many years.

Researchers visit school classes, either face to face or online, to talk about their research in its wider societal context, as well as their daily work and career path.

Belgian Best practices in PE

[ZEEKERWETEN, Belgium](#)

Ocean festivals, which bring together a wide audience around a focused and diverse mix of inspiring activities, are very much needed to create more ocean awareness. Keys to success are a clear message, e-m-ocean, co-design and out-of-the-box creativity.

[Citizen science as a smart city strategy, city of Leuven, Belgium](#)

The city of Leuven collaborates intensively with research and knowledge institutions using citizen science methods as a part of the smart city strategy. This way they not only fill datagaps, but also try to enhance trust in policy making and create community and engagement on different topics such as heat island effect, noise, mobility and air quality.

[SEED, the Educational Service of the Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences](#)

The educational service of the Institute for Natural Sciences provides eye-catching activities around science both in- and outside of the museum. Introducing audiences to science in fun and creative ways.