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Member Academies of ALLEA

~Sent by email only~

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Ref: Call for Nominations: ALLEA's "Fact or Fake" project on scientific disinformation, supported by Compagnia di San Paolo

Berlin, 29 April 2020

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that ALLEA has begun a new project, co-funded by the Turin-based foundation [Compagnia di San Paolo](#), with the objective to provide new insights and develop recommendations in the area of scientific disinformation, by identifying and analysing root causes leading to science-averse attitudes in the publics across European countries and regions. Kindly find more information regarding this new project in the accompanying attachment. As you will see, this activity builds on ALLEA's previous and existing related endeavours including on "Truth, Trust and Expertise", or the on-going EU-funded [PERiTiA](#) ("Policy, Expertise and Trust in Action"), to which many of our member academies actively contribute.

For this novel project, we are now accepting the nomination of experts from member academies to set up a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectorial scientific committee. The group of experts will have the primary goal to discuss and prepare a statement with crucial advice on the issues and questions pertaining to the project's topic.

The range of expertise we are seeking in order to set up this scientific committee includes experts from:

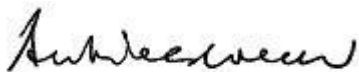
- Communications and Journalism Studies
- Economics and Behavioural Science
- Computer Science
- Psychology, Sociology, Social Anthropology
- Political Science
- Philosophy
- History
- And other relevant fields to Science Communication and Scientific Disinformation

Members of the committee are invited to join two to three virtual meetings and, subject to further developments, one expert/stakeholder workshop held in person. With organisational, coordinative and distributional assistance from the ALLEA Secretariat and Communications teams, the committee is expected to co-shape and determine the final direction of the project, support with their range of expertise the programme of the workshop, and seminally contribute to a discussion paper 'Tackling scientific disinformation', due to be finalised by the end of 2020, as a consequence of the discussions in meetings and workshop. The official release of the discussion paper is envisaged to take place in March 2021 during a public conference in Berlin.

The nominations of experts should be accompanied by a single document containing a short curriculum vitae (no longer than two pages) and a short explanation on how the nominee's experience meets the areas of expertise needed. Please note that, should we receive a number of nominations exceeding the optimal number for this scientific committee, members will be selected to ensure an appropriate balance in expertise and geographical coverage.

We kindly request you to send your nominations, as well as any questions you may have pertaining to this call, to the ALLEA Secretariat by email: secretariat@allea.org for further consideration. We look forward to receiving your nominations by **8 May 2020**.

Thank you very much and kind regards,



Professor Antonio Loprieno

ALLEA President

Fact or Fake? Tackling scientific disinformation in a changing landscape of communications

New Project in partnership with [Compagnia di San Paolo](#)

Background and rationale

This timely project seeks to provide new insights, recommendations and tools in the specific case of scientific disinformation. It is envisaged to develop smart and robust strategies across scientific disciplines in collaboration with other sectors as appropriate, through the revision and synthesis of existing research, policy developments and practices to tackle scientific disinformation with a particular focus on public perception of vaccine safety and climate change, as well as a potential comparative study on disinformation around the COVID-19 pandemic, in Europe. The project will identify and discuss root causes leading to science-averse attitudes in the publics of different European countries and regions. Target audiences include researchers and research institutions, science communications practitioners and journalists, as well as policymakers at the national and European levels.

Project design, implementation and outcomes

The project is set up in two phases. The first project phase (March 2020 – March 2021) will build on and connect with past, on-going and upcoming ALLEA activities relevant to the topic of science disinformation including the ALLEA WG “Truth, Trust and Expertise”, science communications activities carried out in cooperation with national and European associations, the ALLEA-Re-Imagine Europa work on “Democracy in a Digital Society”, as well as on-going climate change education initiatives by ALLEA’s Science Education WG.

Main activities of the first phase include a cross-sectoral workshop, the production and publication of a discussion paper, and the preparation of the second project phase (tbc, subject to further external support). Results of the first phase will be presented during a PErITiA conference in Berlin in March 2021, as well as at the ALLEA General Assembly in Helsinki in May 2021.

The work will be scientifically guided by a cross-disciplinary and pan-European scientific committee. The ALLEA Secretariat will take over the organisational, administrative and communications tasks.

Main objectives of Phase 1

1. Promotion of cross-sectoral exchange and linkages among research, policy, science communications and media communities on practices and approaches to tackle scientific disinformation.
2. Development of cross-sectoral strategies to address the loss of confidence and trust in scientific evidence, learning from the examples of public distrust in vaccination safety and denial of climate change.
3. Provision of guidance to scientists, science communicators, journalists and policymakers to navigate and address the issue of scientific disinformation.

Phase 2 (subject to continued external support), will build on and take further the outcomes of the first phase and ultimately seeks to produce:

- *multi-perspective recommendations* on how to combat scientific disinformation, using the example of the loss of confidence in vaccinations, climate change and reactions to COVID-19 in Europe;
- *a multimedia toolkit* to provide clear and practical advice for scientists, policymakers and communicators on how to tackle “fake news” in the European scientific system.

Project Timeline

Activity	Month of delivery
➤ Formation of inter-disciplinary scientific committee	April/May 2020
➤ Scientific committee meeting (virtual): define core aspects and questions to be addressed; prepare content of workshop; agree on project timeline, implementation actions, etc.	May/June 2020
➤ Preparation and organisation of workshop; initial drafting activities; promotional activities and public relations concerning project; reach out to related initiatives and stakeholders	July/August 2020
➤ Cross-sectoral workshop and public lecture/discussion on topic (format/location tbc)	September/October 2020
➤ Write-up of workshop discussions; further feedback loops with the scientific committee and potentially other stakeholders	October/November 2020
➤ Finalisation of discussion paper and ALLEA endorsement process	December 2020
➤ Layouting, editing, preparation of release; communications and media strategy by ALLEA Communications team	January-February 2021
➤ Release of ALLEA discussion paper “Tackling scientific disinformation” during public conference in Berlin	March 2021
➤ Dissemination and outreach; Preparation of phase 2	March-May 2021
➤ Presentation of results of phase 1 and kick-off of phase 2 (tbc) at ALLEA General Assembly conference in Helsinki, Finland	May 2021