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Science and Society in Europe

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Documents - Science & Society Action Portfolio

Science underpins almost every aspect of our lives. Without it, many of the things we take for granted would be unthinkable. We call upon some basic or advanced principle of science in almost every action we perform – from switching on a light to undergoing major surgery.

Since 2001, the EU has been working hard to turn the Science and Society Action Plan into a living reality and examples abound of successful Union-backed initiatives in the field, which can be shared as good practices or role models.

Find out more by consulting the activity areas and projects below. Most were launched as a response to calls for proposals within the EU Sixth Framework Programme for Research (FP6). Owing to the huge array of actions being undertaken, this set of action sheets cannot claim to be exhaustive. At most, it can only give the reader a taste of the work being done across Europe to bring science closer to the citizen.

The projects/actions are classified below according to key action areas.

- [Introduction](#) (PDF, 376Kb)

Scientific advice and governance

- [Risk governance – making Europe a safer place](#) (PDF, 214Kb)
- [Towards a better use of expertise](#) (PDF, 217Kb)
- [Launching public debate on science's hot topics](#) (PDF, 219Kb)
- [SINAPSE – Scientific Information for Policy Support in Europe](#) (PDF, 217Kb)
- [The PATH to greater public involvement in science](#) (PDF, 215Kb)

Ethics in science

- [Structuring debate on ethics and science at European Union level](#) (PDF, 192Kb)
- [Sharing the fruits of genomics with the developing world](#) (PDF, 189Kb)
- [BITE chews over the ethics of biometrics](#) (PDF, 188Kb)
- [Navigating the ethical waters of genetic testing](#) (PDF, 188Kb)

Women and science

- [Increasing opportunities for women scientists in the wider Europe](#) (PDF, 193Kb)
- [Statistically profiling Europe's women scientists](#) (PDF, 188Kb)
- [Connecting women scientists at European level](#) (PDF, 187Kb)

- [Pushing for equality and excellence in science](#) (PDF, 192Kb)
- [Measuring progress towards gender equality](#) (PDF, 187Kb)
- [A woman's place is in... industrial research and development](#) (PDF, 188Kb)

Education and science

- [Friendly neighbourhood knowledge suppliers](#) (PDF, 211Kb)
- [A boost for science teaching in Europe](#) (PDF, 217Kb)
- [Europe needs more scientists!](#) (PDF, 211Kb)
- [University-based research](#) (PDF, 209Kb)

Science awards

- [EU Young Scientists Contest encourages Europe's future science talent](#) (PDF, 196Kb)
- [The Descartes Prizes – European awards for excellence in scientific research and science communication](#) (PDF, 203Kb)

Science communication and public perception

- [Conference brings media and science together](#) (PDF, 212Kb)
- [Gauging the public's views on science](#) (PDF, 213Kb)
- [Battle of the 'bots brings excitement to science](#) (PDF, 169Kb)
- [Thousands look skyward for a glimpse of Venus](#) (PDF, 171Kb)
- [Putting the fun into physics](#) (PDF, 173Kb)

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