

Call for Expressions of Interest: Science Communication Training for Young Professionals and Early-Career Researchers

UNESCO, in collaboration with the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and the University of Plymouth, is pleased to invite applications for participation in the 'Science Communication Training for Young Professionals and Early-Career Researchers', to be held on 13-14 October 2026 at the ICTP Campus in Trieste, Italy.

Background

The training is organised within the framework of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024-2033), proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly and led by UNESCO. The Science Decade seeks to strengthen the contribution of science to sustainable development by promoting inclusive, trustworthy, and action-oriented science that responds to societal needs.

Europe and the wider region face increasingly complex challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, water insecurity, environmental degradation, demographic transitions, and rapid technological change. While scientific knowledge and technological innovations are expanding rapidly, a persistent gap remains between scientific evidence, public understanding, and policy action. Strengthening science communication capacities among young professionals and early-career researchers is therefore essential for building trust in science, combating misinformation, supporting evidence-informed decision-making, and accelerating progress towards sustainable development.

The training will equip participants with practical skills to communicate environmental science and emerging technologies effectively, engage diverse audiences, and contribute to stronger science-policy-society interfaces.

Training Themes

The programme will combine expert-led sessions, practical exercises, peer learning, and group work around the following themes:

- Science Communication as a Governance Tool
- Communicating Technology, Digital Tools, and Artificial Intelligence for Sustainability
- Communicating Water, Biodiversity, and Climate Science in Place-Based Contexts
- Science Storytelling, Media, and Policy Engagement
- Ethics, Inclusion, and Youth Leadership in Science Communication

Eligibility

Applicants should:

- be between 21 and 35 years of age at the time of application;
- be nationals of, or affiliated with, an institution based in Europe or the South Caucasus;
- be a graduate student (MSc or PhD), postdoctoral researcher, early-career

academic, practitioner, or professional working in a scientific or sustainability-related field;

- demonstrate a strong interest in science communication, public engagement, or evidence-informed policymaking;
- possess a good working knowledge of English.

Particular consideration will be given to applicants affiliated with:

- UNESCO Biosphere Reserves
- UNESCO Global Geoparks
- UNESCO Chairs and Centres
- government agencies
- civil society organisations
- youth networks and community-based organisations working on sustainability-related issues

UNESCO is committed to promoting gender equality, diversity, and inclusion and strongly encourages applications from women.

Financial Support

A limited number of participants will be selected. Subject to the availability of funds, the organisers will cover:

- round-trip travel
- accommodation
- meals during the training programme

Participants will receive a certificate of completion upon successful participation in the training.

Application Requirements

Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications **no later than 20 July 2026**.

Applicants should:

1. complete the online application form available at:
<https://forms.office.com/e/C6C8MWc4rX?origin=IprLink>
2. submit the following documents via email to Regional.Bureau-SC@unesco.org, copying s.partey@unesco.org:
 - Curriculum Vitae (maximum 3 pages)
 - Biodata page of passport

The email subject should be 'Science Communication Training Application – [Applicant Name]'.

Only applications that include both the completed online application form and the required supporting documents submitted by email will be considered.