

# FALLING WALLS FOUNDATION

WHICH ARE  
THE NEXT  
WALLS  
TO FALL?

## A YEAR OF ACTION FOR SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

With the International Year of Science Engagement, the Falling Walls Foundation aims for the United Nations to endorse a year of action in 2027 that promotes greater engagement with science, the public, business and governments to create environments dedicated to solving our world's challenges.

### WHAT IS SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT?

Falling Walls aims to expand the recognition of Science Engagement worldwide. We seek participatory formats of all levels: from co-productive research and public panels to arts-driven or entertaining approaches – the common ground is the inclusion of and impact on all sides involved. We define Science Engagement as activities, events, or interactions bridging the gap between science and society to generate mutual learning and mutual benefits across the spectrum of public engagement in science.

**FOR A GROWING NUMBER OF COUNTRIES** scientific advances and innovation are active drivers of economic growth and prosperity. Scientific advances, along with social, economic and policy reforms, are creating new entry points to address the most persistent development challenges. The United Nations Agenda 2030 has great potential to be transformative, but its implementation will require a profound change in the world's socio-economic, political, cultural and research systems, as well as the unsustainable practices and behaviors, attitudes and values that underpin them.

Science Engagement offers tools to spark, scale, and sustain change. It offers a pathway to increase awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among the public and decision-makers by creating ways and spaces to engage with complex issues that affect our everyday lives. The International Year of Science Engagement will make a direct contribution to supporting the international community in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by:

- Mobilising Science Engagement practitioners, scientists, science communicators, citizen scientists and students globe to showcase their work, exchange best practices, and develop bold ideas, approaches, methods and tools to boost science literacy and engage different stakeholders in science.
- Creating innovative digital and real-life spaces to share the latest policy insights, cutting-edge research and big ideas, as well as the most creative Science Engagement tools to spur action and create change.
- Inspiring leaders and individuals across sectors to engage with science and seek solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Connecting science, politics, and the public to build capacity, share knowledge, and form and strengthen networks to deepen engagement and action together.
- Showcasing ways to include perspectives and expertise collected in local Science Engagement formats and debates into the discussions of Global Leaders at the Falling Walls Circle.

### TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT IN 2027

We call on academia, business, civil society, and governments around the world to support the International Year of Science Engagement by joining our network and helping us institutionalise Science Engagement as a pillar of sustainability, peace, and security. By launching and scaling this global initiative of change, the Falling Walls Foundation will build on its years of expertise in Science Engagement established by Falling Walls Engage. While on the path to official UN designation, we are looking for partners to support our initiative through mutual endorsement, political backing, and financial commitment.

Supported by



### CONTACT

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**International Year of Science Engagement 2027**

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## HOW TO GET INVOLVED OR BECOME A PARTNER

The International Year of Science Engagement is built on strong and diverse partnerships. We invite organisations and individuals from academia, business, politics, international development, diplomacy, and civil society anywhere in the world to join us in a globally coordinated effort to find solutions to the world's largest challenges through a greater engagement with science.

We are looking for various governmental, media, and science engagement partners to support this initiative on its path to UN designation with activism, political backing, and financial commitment. If you would like to learn more about the IYSE or if you are interested in becoming a partner, please get in touch with us to explore how you can shape the IYSE.

## GETTING INVOLVED: ON THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL

The International Year of Science Engagement will make a direct contribution to supporting the international community in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by:

- Facilitating contact with your networks and connecting us to governmental/UNESCO contacts from your country that would like to support the IYSE resolution.
- Increase the visibility of the IYSE by connecting us with your partners (media and network partners).
- Sharing your expertise on the development of local, regional, national and international Science Engagement initiatives.

## GETTING INVOLVED: ON A SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT LEVEL

Connect us with Science Engagement networks and institutions in your country to:

- Co-host consultation calls to share your country's expertise in the development of international Science Engagement initiatives and work with us on further developing the concept and goals for the IYSE.
- Discussion workshops on the SDGs, showcasing local/regional/national Science Engagement initiatives and promoting the interaction between multistakeholders.

## IN THE WORKS: THE IYSE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Are you extremely active in your field? Have you built very strong relationships to advanced professionals and experts? If so, please consider contacting us regarding your involvement with the International Year of Science Engagement (IYSE) Ambassador Program.

We are accepting queries from interested parties who have experience working in the fields of diplomacy and international development. Please share the word by following us on Twitter and LinkedIn. You can also subscribe to our IYSE Ambassador Newsletter, so you will be the first to know when this exciting program officially launches. More information will be coming soon!

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