



Webinar *For the benefit of Finnish science capital*, February 15th 2021 at 10–12.

Organisers: The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV), Finnish Science Centre Heureka, Finnish Literature Society (SKS), the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland (SLS), the Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes

We are now living in a global crisis caused by the coronavirus. During this crisis, we and the whole world have relied on peer-reviewed scientific information provided by the international scientific community. The societal impact of scientific information depends on how this information is disseminated, accepted and understood – and how scientific information is trusted – in different language communities around the world. The success of impactful activities depends on how activities based on research data can be distributed credibly and in the local language.

Understandability, credibility and trust are built on science capital.

Science capital consists of the dissemination and popularisation of scientific information, effective scientific communication, education and literacy. We need organisations that understand their audiences – scientific societies, centres and institutes, as well as foundations that maintain or support them – to promote a positive societal impact and the common good.

This requires that the preconditions of scientific societies, publishers, centres and institutes that disseminate scientific information and accumulate the science capital are secured.

Finland has a diverse and an internationally unique system of science organisations, which penetrates deep into civil society and, on its part, guarantees the societal impact of science. Commitment to the values of science and an open civil society and to gratuitous work in positions of trust have provided resources for this system. These activities for the public good have been based on private donations and foundations, as well as government support from gambling profit.

Our society's science capital must still be accumulated by supporting scientific work, general understanding of this work and an impactful dissemination of scientific information. To this end, the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, the Finnish Science Centre Heureka, the Finnish Literature Society, the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland, and the Finnish Cultural and Academic Institutes are organising a webinar for science policy decision-makers on February 15th 2021, presenting activities for the good of impactful science.

If we do not work for the dissemination and understandability of scientific information, trust in science, scientists and the impact of science will fall short. We need research and information, as well as different perspectives, that help us to understand our lives and different societies and cultures. This is the work we signatories have also carried out during this year of coronavirus.

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