



International  
Day of Light

16 May

## **MENELAOS<sup>NT</sup> JOINS INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE LEADERS IN SUPPORT OF GLOBAL PLEDGE TO TRUST SCIENCE**

A central message of the International Day of Light 2021 will encourage the public expression of confidence in the scientific process

Siegen (Germany), 13/05/2021. Ahead of this year's [International Day of Light](#) celebration on May 16, the International Day of Light Steering Committee announces the launch of the [Trust Science](#) pledge, a worldwide campaign to promote support for the scientific process and to acknowledge the many benefits of science for society. The H2020-MSCA-ITN **MENELAOS<sup>NT</sup>** pledges its support of this campaign and will play an active role in this year's International Day of Light by organizing the worldwide online event "Smart Sensing with Light: from Photons to Information". In this event we aim to raise awareness of the importance of light for the society by reviewing a set of high-impact active research fields in optical sensing. The overarching idea is the conversion of photons into high-level information, of paramount importance in a variety of application fields, ranging from medical and health monitoring to Earth Observation, autonomous driving, 3D modelling and scene understanding, safety and security, chemical sensing, etc., to cite a few.

Crises such as the coronavirus pandemic demonstrate the importance of scientific research and remind us how much we depend on dedicated professionals to find evidence-based solutions to global challenges. To recognize the central role played by science in society, the Trust Science pledge invites the general public to join leading scientists worldwide to affirm confidence in the process of scientific research and discovery.

To date, the pledge has seen enthusiastic support worldwide with founding signatories including Nobel laureates, UNESCO L'Oréal For Women in Science prize winners, Presidents and CEOs of major scientific bodies, as well as scientists and students from more than 20 different countries. The pledge is now being shared widely to invite all interested individuals to take part.

The Trust Science pledge states: "Trust in evidence-based, scientific facts is essential for providing sustainable solutions to today's challenges. By adding my name to this declaration and pledge, I recognize the key role that scientific research and discovery plays in improving quality of life for all."

The Trust Science campaign is organized by the [IEEE Photonics Society](#), [SPIE](#), [the international society for optics and photonics](#), and [The Optical Society \(OSA\)](#), together with the [International Day of Light Steering Committee](#).

The development and implementation of novel technologies to create an impact in our society is at the very core of **MENELAOS<sup>NT</sup>**. **MENELAOS<sup>NT</sup>** addresses societal key challenges, such as sustainable agriculture and forestry, bioeconomy, environmental changes, resource efficiency, as well as protecting freedom and security of the European society. To this end, **MENELAOS<sup>NT</sup>** applies novel technologies to realize multimodal – multi sensor data fusion to optimally combine the information "partitions", delivered by different sensors (many of them optical) on different scales, with different resolutions and with different reliability. Consequently, a deep trust in science and the potential of evidence-based scientific research to transform our lives and provide sustainable solutions for societal challenges is a foundational stone of **MENELAOS<sup>NT</sup>** philosophy.

In the context of the International Day of Light, the campaign will also highlight a number of **Champions**, research leaders in broad areas of light science and technology, including solar energy, the study of cultural heritage and healthcare.

To sign the pledge and to learn more, please go to [www.trust-science.org](http://www.trust-science.org)

### Contacts

For questions about MENELAOS<sup>NT</sup>'s participation in the pledge, please contact: [heredia@zess.uni-siegen.de](mailto:heredia@zess.uni-siegen.de)

For questions about how you can engage with the campaign, please contact: [info@trust-science.org](mailto:info@trust-science.org)

For media enquiries, please contact: [pr@trust-science.org](mailto:pr@trust-science.org)

Social media: please share using #TrustScience and #LightDay2021

Social media links: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)

### About the International Day of Light

The International Day of Light (IDL) is a worldwide initiative that provides an annual focal point for the continued appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, culture and art, education and sustainable development, and in fields as diverse as medicine, communications and energy. The International Day of Light is administered from the International Basic Science Programme (IBSP) of UNESCO by a Steering Committee that includes representatives from a broad range of international partners: The American Institute of Physics (AIP), the American Physical Society (APS), Bosca, the China International Optoelectronic Exhibition (CIOE), Chinese Optical Society (COS), the European Centres for Outreach in Photonics (ECOP), the European Photonics Industry Consortium (EPIC), the European Physical Society (EPS), the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES), the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the IEEE Photonics Society (IPS), the International Commission on Illumination (CIE), lightsources.org - the international network of accelerator based light sources, Light: Science and Applications, The Optical Society (OSA), SESAME, Signify, SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics, Tampere University, Thorlabs, Transitions, the Université de Franche-Comté and Velux.

For information about the International Day of Light, please visit [www.lightday.org](http://www.lightday.org)

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### H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Innovative Training Network (ITN) on “Multimodal Environmental Exploration Systems – Novel Technologies” (MENELAOS<sup>NT</sup>)

