



Citizen engagement in Horizon Europe: *setting the scene*

Citizen science in Horizon Europe: proposals and projects

Belgian Horizon Europe National Contact Points workshop

12 October 2023

Gabriella Leo

Open Science & Research Infrastructures

DG R&I, EC

OUTLINE

- What is Citizen Science and why is it important?
- Citizen and societal engagement in Horizon Europe actions
- Reporting and monitoring
- Some examples

What is Citizen Science and why is it important?

What is citizen science



Citizen science can be described as the voluntary participation of non-professional scientists in research and innovation at different stages of the process and at different levels of engagement, from shaping research agendas and policies, to gathering, processing and analyzing data, and assessing the outcomes of research.

Why promote citizen and societal engagement?

- Can contribute to **excellence**
 - Enlarges the scope of R&I and the quality and quantity of data collected, discussed and analysed
 - Increases the robustness of the outcomes
 - Enables innovative and creative approaches
 - Leverages collective intelligence (often excluded from contributing to R&I)
- Can contribute to **effectiveness**
 - R&I more closely aligned with needs, values and expectations of society
 - Triggering behavioural changes
 - More likely to lead to quicker and larger uptake of R&I results
- Can contribute to **trust of society in science**
 - Opening R&I system to society
 - More variety on supply side
 - Increased transparency and mutual learning between science and society

Citizen & societal engagement in the European R&I policy



- ✓ Part of the **“Pact for R&I in Europe”** that lists **“societal responsibility”** as a main principle of working together, calls for **“making use of the knowledge in society”** to increase the impact of R&I by transforming Europe’s leadership in knowledge creation and identifies **“active citizen and societal engagement in R&I”** as a priority area for joint action in the EU



- ✓ Part of the **open science policy** of the EU, embedded in the **new European Research Area (ERA) policy agenda** to achieve **greater impact and increased trust in science**

Citizen and societal engagement in Horizon Europe

- ✓ A **programme principle and operational objective of Horizon Europe**, which “shall promote co-creation and co-design through the engagement of citizens and civil society”.
- ✓ **Co-design and co-creation, and engagement of citizens and civil society** are mainstreamed across the programme, notably in the **Clusters and EU R&I Missions**
- ✓ The work programme may provide for **additional incentives or obligations** to adhere to **open science** practices including **citizen engagement**
- ✓ **Open science practices** are considered
 - *In the award criteria for proposal evaluation: under ‘excellence’ and the ‘quality and efficiency of implementation’*
 - *In the reporting and monitoring*
 - *In the key impact pathway indicators*

Citizen and societal engagement in Horizon Europe actions

Horizon Europe: evaluation of open science practices

Mandatory practices

open access, responsible management of research data - FAIR principles, digital or physical access to the results needed to validate the conclusions, unless exceptions apply

Proposers provide concrete information on how they plan to comply?

YES

NO

Higher evaluation score

Lower evaluation score

With sufficient justification on why open science practices do not apply, open science should not be scored

Recommended practices

*such as **involving all relevant knowledge actors, including citizens**, early and open sharing of research, output management beyond research data, open peer-review*

Proposers provide a clear explanation of how they will adopt recommended practices, as appropriate for their projects?

YES

NO

Higher evaluation score

No change in score

Horizon Europe proposal evaluation

In the proposal evaluation form:

engagement of citizens, civil society and end users addressed in the excellence criterion, **open science practices** as an integral part of the proposed methodology

1. Excellence

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- *Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state of the art.*
- **Soundness of the proposed methodology**, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and **the quality of open science practices, including** sharing and management of research outputs and **engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.**

Horizon Europe: examples of engagement activities

Engagement refers to the involvement of citizens and civil society in co-designing R&I agendas, in co-creating R&I contents, and/or in co-assessing R&I outcomes

Co-design - such as [workshops](#), [focus groups](#) or other means to develop R&I agendas, roadmaps and policies... often including deep discussion on the implications, the ethics, the benefits and the challenges related to R&I courses of action or technology development

Co-creation - involving citizens and/or end-users directly in the development of new knowledge or innovation, for instance through [citizen science](#) and [user-led innovation](#) - e.g. [living labs](#), [testbeds](#)

Co-assessment - such as assisting in the [monitoring](#), [evaluation](#) and [feedback to governance](#) of a project, to policies or programmes on an iterative or even continual basis

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

Reporting and monitoring

Reporting on citizen & societal engagement

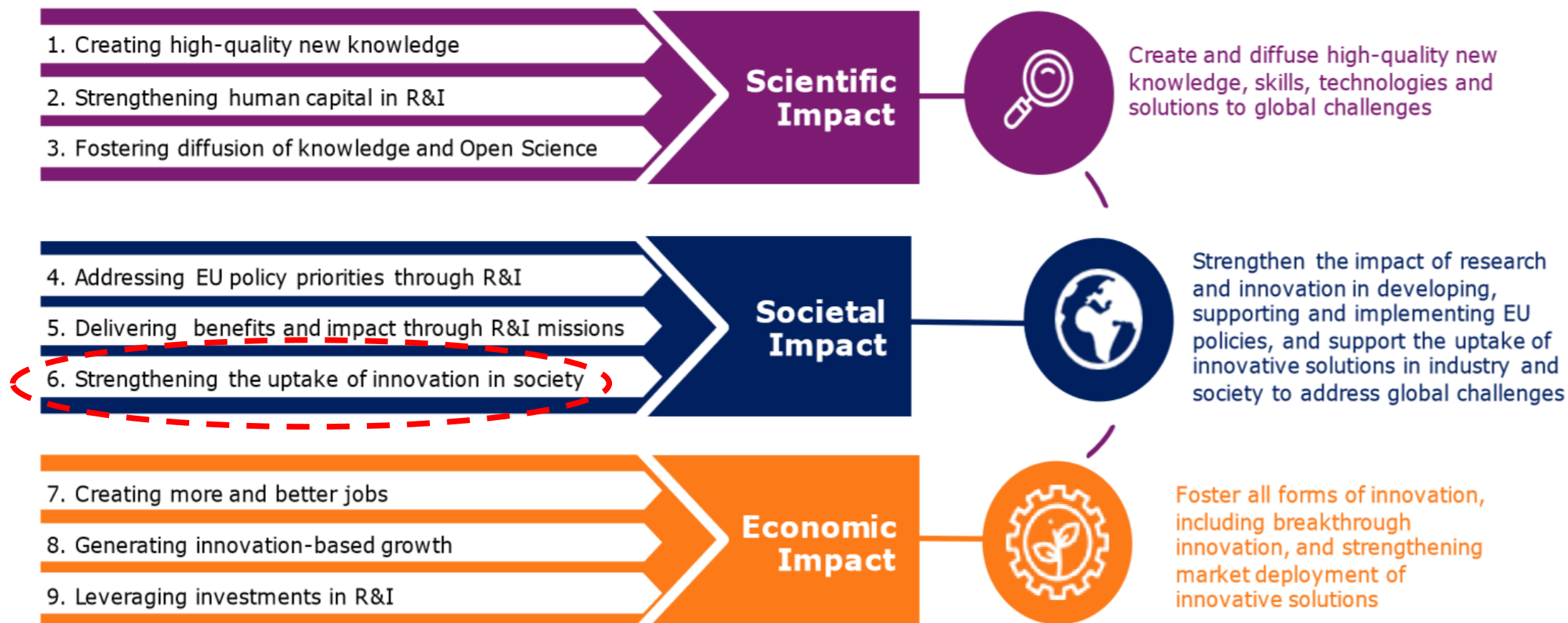
Citizen engagement <i>(for ERC projects, the table must be filled in only at the end of the project)</i> <i>Regarding co-design and co-creation through the engagement of citizens, and/or end-user entities, how have citizen and end-user entities contributed to the co-creation of R&I content so far?</i>			Citizen	End-user entities
Co-creating R&I visions, agendas, policies or frameworks			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-creating R&I action plans or technology roadmaps			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collecting data for the project			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Analysing data for the project			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing resources, e.g. computational, space/locations, practical support			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring and/or evaluating R&I results			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Testing & experimenting with innovative R&I solutions			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing to scientific publications or patent applications			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Debating R&I findings and implications for them			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not applicable			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify):	[insert text]			

Reporting on mechanisms for engagement

What mechanisms for citizen and/or end-user entity engagement have you set up and plan to maintain beyond the end of your project, or are planning to set up and maintain beyond the end of your project (per beneficiary)? <i>(not blocking submission)</i>	Beneficiary 1	Beneficiary 2	Beneficiary 3
Department, centre, lab, network, testbeds or other structure or space set up, internally or externally, to support citizen/end-user engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institutional websites, web-pages or portals set up to support citizen/end-user engagement (excluding project website)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff appointed with responsibility to initiate, monitor, evaluate or advise on citizen/end-user engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staff appointed with responsibility for training, mutual learning and sharing of tools and good practice on citizen/end-user engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rules, standards, guidelines or other frameworks established to ensure that citizen/end-user engagement is taken into account in institutional R&I processes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Systematic or regular dialogues, meetings, workshops or other events set up for citizen/end-user engagement (excl.one-off events)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (free text, word limit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall, how many individual citizens have been involved in co-creating R&I content for all activities listed? (please provide your best estimate, which should be traceable in one or more deliverables)	[insert text]	[insert text]	[insert text]

Horizon Europe: key impact pathways

- **3 types of impacts**, tracked with **9 Key Impact Pathways (KIP)**, for capturing and communicating impact **during and after** the Framework Programme implementation

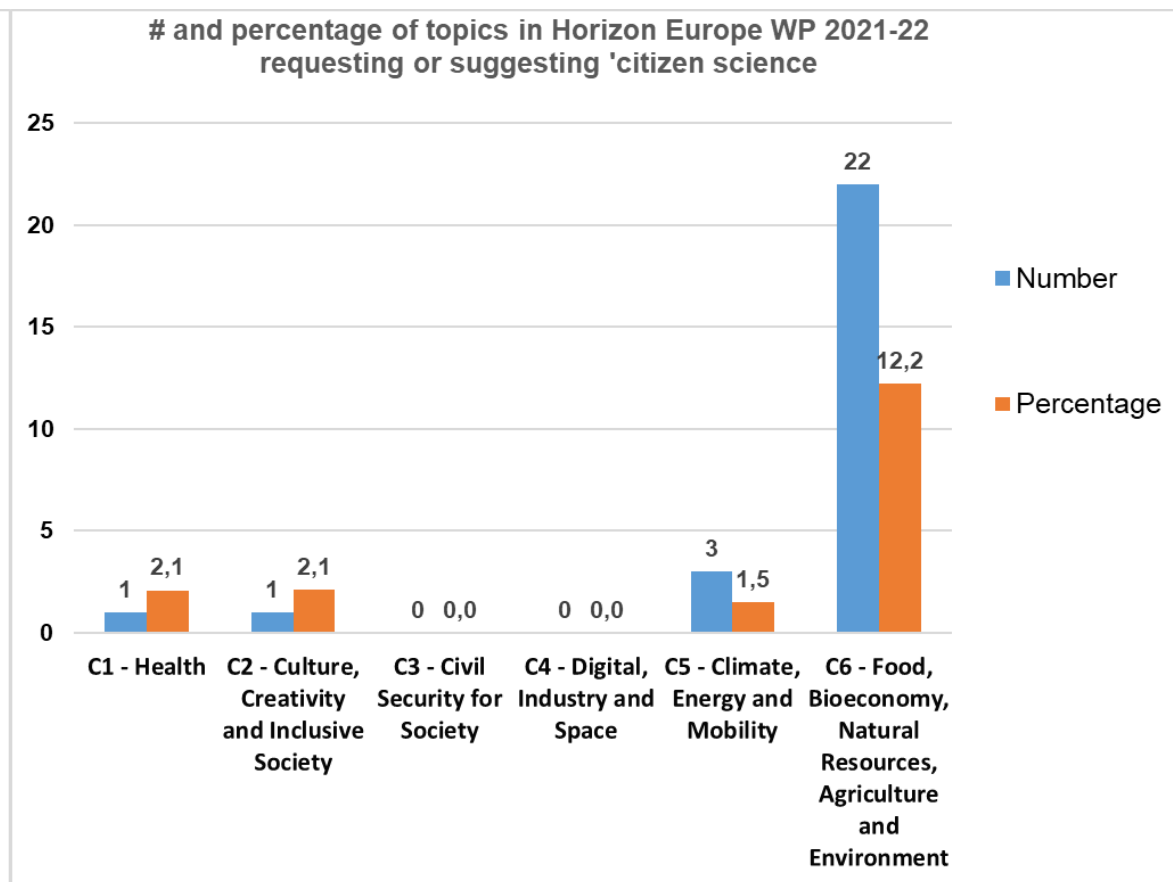
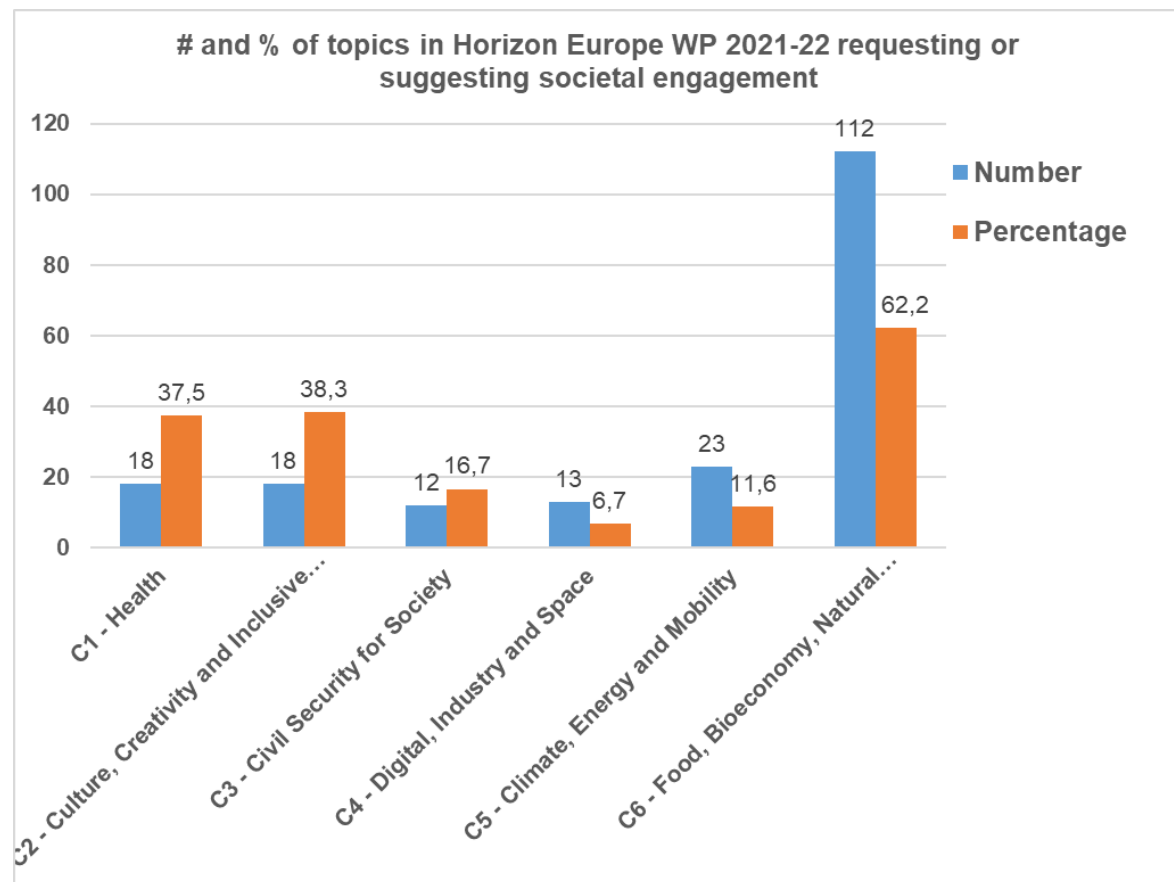


Monitoring the impact of citizen and societal engagement

	Short term (during project)	Medium term (~3 years after project)	Long term (~10 years after project)
Strengthening the uptake of research and innovation in society	<u>Co-creation -</u> Number and share of FP projects where EU citizens and end-users contribute to the co-creation of R&I content	<u>Engagement -</u> Number and share of FP beneficiary entities with citizen and end-users engagement mechanisms after FP project	<u>Societal R&I uptake -</u> Uptake and outreach of FP co-created scientific results and innovative solutions
	1) more tightly focused than in H2020, 2) based on actual activities, 3) differentiates between types of engagement.	1) Mainstreamed to the programme as a whole, 2) more tightly focused, 3) differentiates by type of mechanism.	Likely a composite indicator, covering scientific, economic, societal, policy aspects.

Some examples

Citizen and societal engagement in Horizon Europe Clusters



Citizen and Societal Engagement dedicated support in Horizon Europe

‘Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area’

WP 2021-22: 4 calls on Citizen Science & RRI, Budget: € 17.5mil

- *CS capacity-building and brokering network*
- *Triggering and sustaining CS initiatives*
- *Stepping-up institutional and territorial changes towards open and RRI*
- *Developing and piloting training on the practice of open and RRI*

WP 2023-24: 1 call on Citizen Science, Budget € 3.0mil - closed 9 March 2023

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-08: Laying the groundwork towards Europe-wide citizen science campaigns

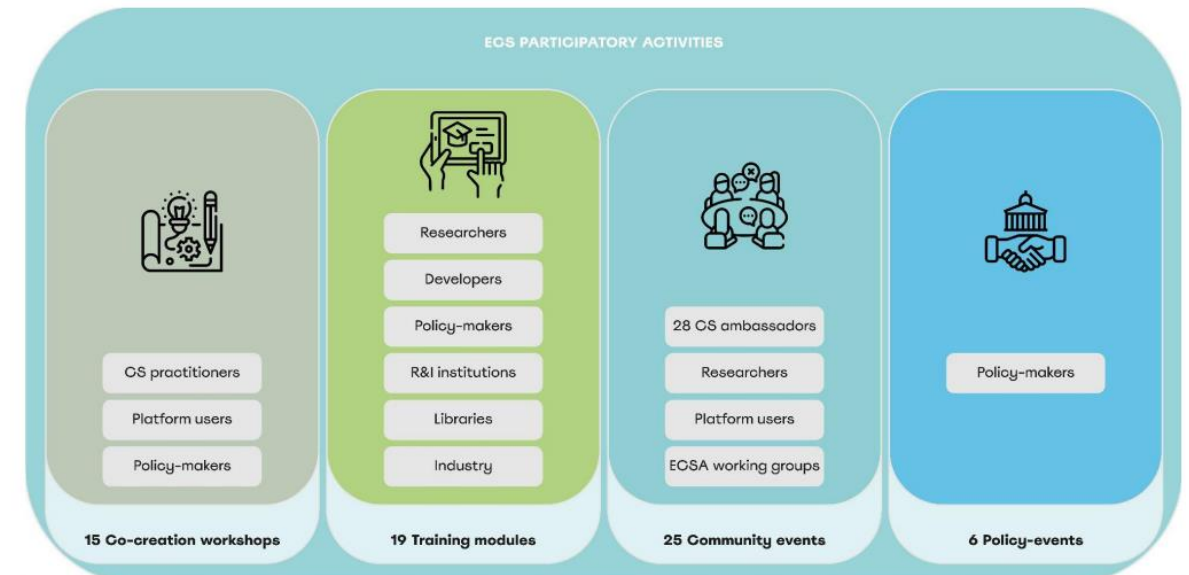
HE dedicated support to citizen and societal engagement

HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-60 - A capacity-building and brokering network to make citizen science an integral part of the ERA

ECS-European Citizen Science project - start 1/8/2022, budget 4 million €, 4 years

- **Objective:** to widen and strengthen the European Citizen Science community, involve the community in the co-design and co-creation of a large variety of services, strategic priorities, training opportunities and policy recommendations.
- **Capacity building and awareness raising activities:** such as the creation of a European Citizen Science Academy and the establishment of a network of 28 ECS Ambassadors.
- **Capitalise on EU-funded actions** such as the EU-Citizen.Science platform and Cos4Cloud

Participatory activities in ECS



HE dedicated support to citizen and societal engagement

HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-61 - Supporting and giving recognition to citizen science in the ERA



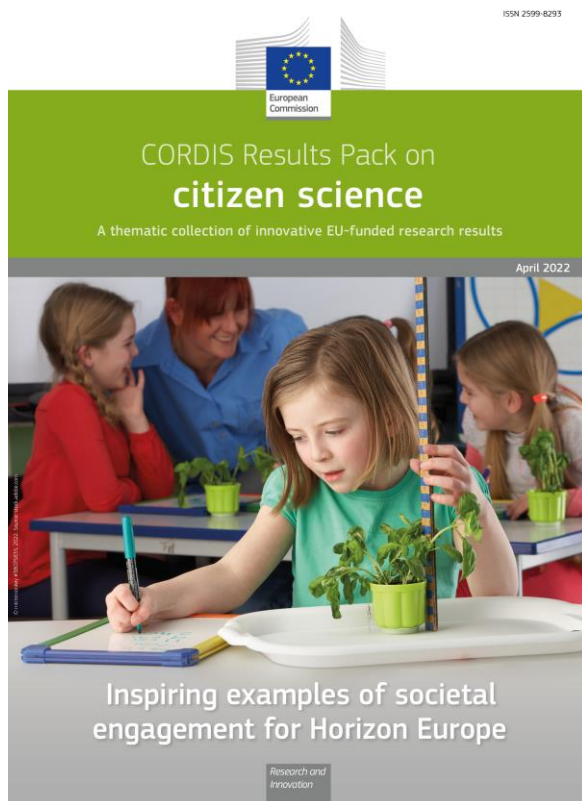
IMPETUS - *Setting a citizen science innovation programme for exploring innovative funding schemes and boosting recognition*

start 1/7/2022, budget 4.1 million €, 4 years

Objective: to support and give recognition to citizen science by enabling a wider range of citizen science initiatives to access innovative funding.

- ✓ funding CS Initiatives (CSIs) through **open calls**:
 - to kick-start 100 CSIs with 20k€ each
 - to sustain 25 CSIs addressing pressing needs of the European society, 10k€ each
 - to launch the EU Prize for Citizen Science: 3 prize categories, outstanding achievements, diversity and innovative grassroots projects
- ✓ setting up an accelerator to provide the funded CSIs with an integrated programme of support, training, mentoring, and resource
- ✓ anticipatory policy and action research, policy briefs, webinars and workshops with key policy stakeholders to inform evidence-based policies and identify future directions in CS policy.
- ✓ developing impact assessment tools and assessing the impact of CSIs

Inspiring Citizen Science Projects



Presents wide range of examples of how societal engagement could be used; *from collecting traffic data, measuring odour pollution to contributing to the product innovation*

[CORDIS results pack on citizen science - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu/cordis-results-pack-on-citizen-science)

Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. Fotolia.com; Slide xx: element concerned, source: e.g. iStock.com

