



Citizen and societal engagement: A policy and programme priority for the European Commission

EU-Citizen.Science training module launch, 27 October 2021

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Why promote citizen science and societal engagement?

- **Contributes 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)
- **Contributes to effectiveness**
 - Aligns outcomes with the needs, values and expectations of society, ensuring greater relevance and uptake
 - Reduces time-to-market of innovative products and services
 - Triggers behavioural changes
- **Contributes to trust of society in science**
 - Increases openness, transparency, and 'co-ownership' of society
 - Often leads to more inclusive outcomes
 - Encourages mutual learning between science and society

Engagement - an integral part of EU open science policy

- Open science is an approach based on **open cooperative work** and the systematic sharing of knowledge and tools as early and widely as possible in the R&I process
- Open science practices include **involving all relevant knowledge actors** such as citizens, civil society and end users in the **co-creation of R&I agendas and contents**

At the core of the European Research Area

Council Conclusions:

- “further develop and implement the “**plastic pirates**” citizen science campaign in cooperation with the proposed Mission on Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters... organise **at least every two years a Europe-wide Citizen Science Campaign**... in synergy with Horizon Europe missions”

Horizon Europe:

- Citizen and societal engagement foreseen across the programme, particularly in the Clusters and Missions
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-60: **A capacity-building and brokering network** to make citizen science an integral part of the European Research Area (EUR 4m)
- HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ERA-01-61: **Supporting and giving recognition** to citizen science in the European Research Area (EUR 5m)
- **Mutual Learning Exercise** for member states (tbc). Intended outcome: identify good practices and initiatives for supporting and scaling up citizen science, including for campaigns with potential for collaboration across the ERA

Horizon Europe: structure





R&I Missions

R&I Missions

Relating EU's research and innovation better to society and citizens' needs; with strong visibility and impact

A mission is a portfolio of actions intended to achieve **a bold and inspirational as well as measurable goal** within a set timeframe, with impact for science and technology, society and citizens that goes beyond individual actions

Horizon Europe proposal defines mission characteristics and elements of governance

Specific missions will be **co-designed with Member States, stakeholders and citizens** and programmed within the Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness pillar (drawing on inputs from other pillars)

Proposed missions:

- Conquering Cancer: Mission Possible
- A Climate Resilient Europe
- Mission Starfish 2030: Restore our Ocean and Waters
- 100 Climate-Neutral Cities by 2030 - by and for the citizens
- Caring for Soil is Caring for Life



Video - <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-211037>

Key features for citizen and societal engagement in Horizon Europe

Open science is the *modus operandi* of the entire programme

- Societal engagement considered part of the excellence criterion under methodology during **proposal evaluation** (proposal template + evaluation criterion)
- One of the nine **pathways to impact** (KIP6) starts with citizens and end-users co-creating knowledge and innovations, with the goal of developing solutions and knowledge that are taken up by society

Co-design and co-creation, and **engagement of citizens** and civil society organisations, are **mainstreamed** across the programme

Example of citizen and societal engagement in Horizon Europe project activities

Co-design activities 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 activities involving citizens and/or end-users directly in the development of new knowledge or innovation, for instance through citizen science and user-led innovation

Co-assessment activities such as assisting in the monitoring, evaluation and feedback to governance of a project, projects, 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

Interaction between citizens, scientists and policy makers is essential to enrich research and innovation, and reinforce trust of society in science. I am proud of the hundreds of thousands involved citizens that already contributed to research and innovation and look forward to continue opening up research towards society and the world.

Mariya Gabriel
Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth

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#cs_sdg2020

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[European Commission citizen science video](#)

[CS-SDG presidency conference: and Declaration](#)

Summary

Citizen and **societal engagement** can improve the **quality, effectiveness,** and **trust** of society in research and innovation.

It is an integral part of the EU's open science policy and an agreed **priority for the European Research Area**. This is reflected in Horizon Europe, where **engagement** is foreseen **across the programme**.

A challenge is to ensure that high-quality practices, tailored to context, help support the Sustainable Development Goals and other societal objectives in the ERA and Horizon Europe, building on efforts in Horizon 2020.

Thank you



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