



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

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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](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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CITIZEN SCIENCE  
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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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