Open Science for Society: Increasing trust in science

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Open Science for higher quality, more efficient and impactful research – Opportunities for Regions and Cities

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Citizen and societal engagement in the European open science policy

➢ **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**

➢ **Opening the research system towards society**, and vice-versa, is a policy priority embedded within the **new ERA policy agenda**

➢ **"Pact for R&I in Europe"**

  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

  identifies **"active citizen and societal engagement in R&I"** as a priority area for joint action in the EU

➢ Under **Horizon Europe**, which "**shall promote co-creation and co-design through the engagement of citizens and civil society**", citizen involvement is a programme principle and operational objective

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Why promote citizen 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

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Useful evidence - Eurobarometer 516

https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2237

Special Eurobarometer 516

European citizens' knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology

Report — Fieldwork April-May 2021
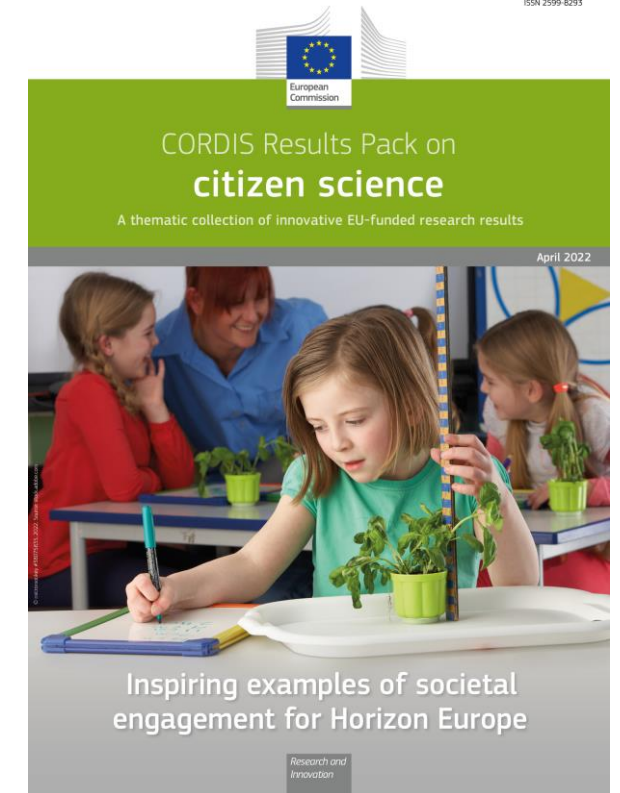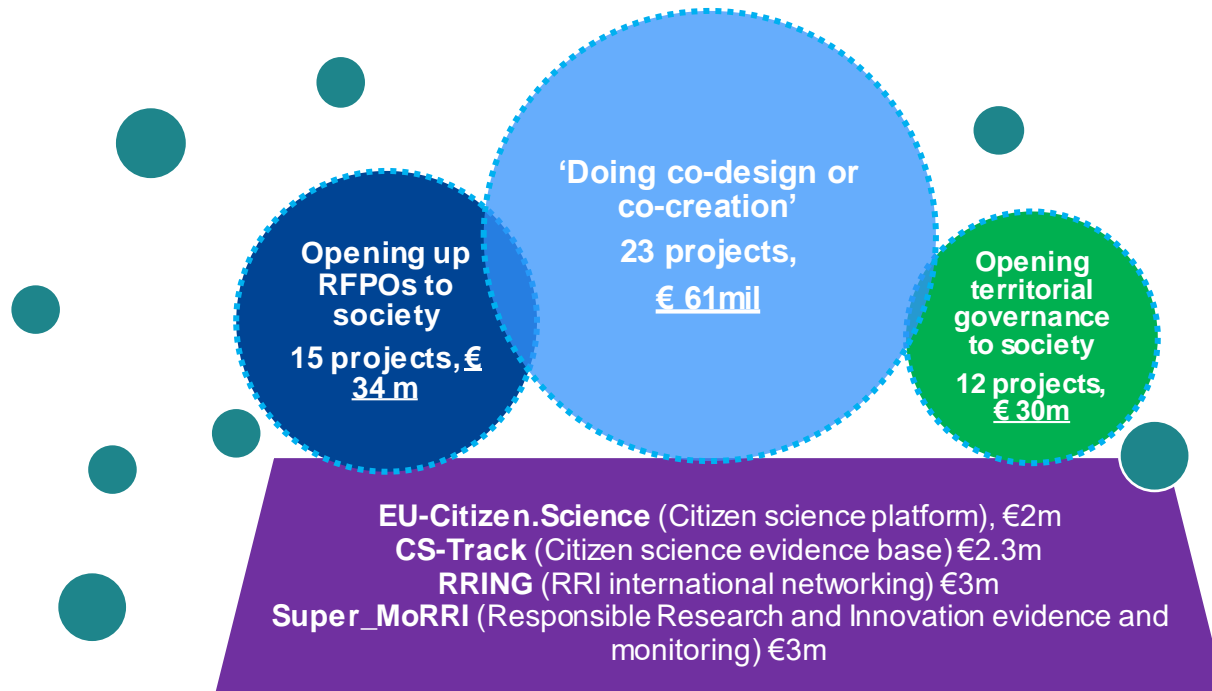
Fieldwork:13 April - 10 May 2021

Questions on knowledge, the impacts and governance of science and technology, **views of scientists, citizen engagement in S&T,** young people, gender equality, and **social responsibility**, and comparative advantage of the EU

European citizens' knowledge and attitudes towards S&T

- **82% of EU citizens** are *interested* in new scientific discoveries and technological discoveries

- **86%** think the overall *influence* of science and technology on society is positive

- **68%** say that that **scientists should intervene in political debates** to ensure that decisions take into account scientific evidence

- **84%** think that decision about science and technology should be made by scientists, engineers and politicians but the public should always be informed or seriously consulted

- **61%** say that **involving non-scientists in research & technological development** ensures that S&T respond to the needs, values and expectation of the society

- **51%** say that **scientists do not spend sufficient time meeting people** to explain their work

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Horizon 2020 SwafS project portfolio

✓ **Citizen science and engagement:** covering all areas of science and innovation **from public health and ecology to computer science and frontier physics**

✓ **Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)**

✓ **Impacts and implications** of citizen science and citizen engagement

✓ **Hubs of activity** to foster growth and encourage the very best practices

Opening up RFPOs to society 15 projects, € 34 m

'Doing co-design or co-creation' 23 projects, € 61mil

Opening territorial governance to society 12 projects, € 30m

EU-Citizen.Science (Citizen science platform), €2m
CS-Track (Citizen science evidence base) €2.3m
RRING (RRI international networking) €3m
Super_MoRRI (Responsible Research and Innovation evidence and monitoring) €3m

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CORDIS Results Pack on
citizen science
A thematic collection of innovative EU-funded research results

April 2022

Inspiring examples of societal engagement for Horizon Europe

Research and Innovation

CORDIS results pack on citizen science - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu)

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Horizon Europe dedicated support to citizen and societal engagement

Open science (OS) is the *modus operandi* of the **Horizon Europe programme**

Co-design, co-creation and co-implementation of R&I with citizens and civil society organisations are **mainstreamed across the programme and within the topic texts**

'Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area'

WP2021-22, 4 topics on CS capacity-building, triggering and sustaining CS initiatives, stepping-up institutional and territorial changes, developing and piloting training on the practice of open and responsible research and innovation

WP2023-2024, 1 topic on Laying the groundwork towards Europe-wide citizen science campaigns

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Mutual Learning Exercise - Citizen Science: policy and practice

Objectives

✓ To strengthen national CS policies and initiatives by exchanging lesson learnt and best practices

✓ To exploit synergies and upscale suitable (cross-)national CS initiatives across the ERA

CS MLE Topics
1. Landscape of citizen science
2. Ensuring good practices and impacts
3. Maximizing the relevance and excellence of citizen science
4. Enabling environments and sustaining citizen science
5. Scaling up citizen science

https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/statistics/policy-support-facility/mutual-learning-exercise-citizen-science-initiatives-policy-and-practice

Mutual Learning Exercise - Citizen Science: policy and practice

Final report : January 2023

A solid set of **concrete operational recommendations and enabling conditions**
- ✓ **to support and expand citizen science activities**
- ✓ **to achieve greater societal impact and increase trust in science** through the leveraging of collective societal capabilities and insights
- ✓ **to enlarge the scope and impact of research and innovation** through increased societal relevance, responsiveness and transparency.
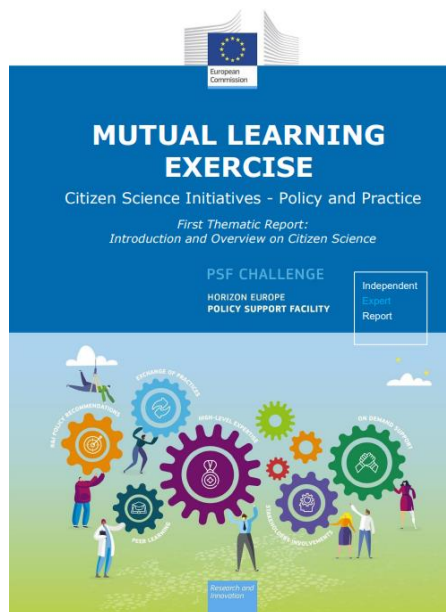
Top 4 recommendations

1. Support & grow national networks of practitioners

2. Develop & provide dedicated funding instruments

3. Enable the required culture change

4. Invest in supportive infrastructures

Thank you

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