D6.5: First version of TIME4CS Clustering activities and user engagement activities report

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Background Information

TIME4CS – Supporting sustainable Institutional Changes to promote Citizen Science in Science and Technology – is an H2020 project funded under the Science with and for Society Work Programme in the call SwafS-23-2020 "Grounding RRI in society with a focus on citizen science" under Grant Agreement No 101006201.

The project aims at supporting and facilitating the implementation of sustainable Institutional Changes in Research Performing Organizations (RPOs) to promote Public Engagement and Citizen Science in science and technology. Institutional Changes can be defined as a type of change triggered in an organization and characterized by being irreversible, comprehensive, inclusive and contextualized. TIME4CS does not aim at exploring Institutional Changes as a general phenomenon but the project focuses on the specific Institutional Changes needed to embed Citizen Science in RPOs. Therefore, TIME4CS has identified 4 Intervention Areas (IAs) that alone or combined can stimulate the Institutional Changes necessary to promote Citizen Science in Research and Innovation processes: 1) Research, 2) Education and Awareness, 3) Support resources and Infrastructure and 4) Policy and Assessment. TIME4CS analyzes these areas to consolidate the knowledge about the institutional adoption, establishment and maintenance of Citizen Science capacity and to establish a model for Citizen Science expansion through Institutional Changes.

For each Intervention Area, TIME4CS has identified an organization that has already undergone some Institutional Changes to promote Citizen Science showing therefore a comprehensive knowledge and expertise. The knowledge of these partners, called Front-Runners, will contribute to the definition of a set of practical actions aimed at paving the way to Institutional Changes, defined as Grounding Actions. Front-Runners will interact with and mentor four organizations willing to face the challenge of introducing Citizen Science more and more in their structures. These organizations, defined Implementers, within TIME4CS lifetime will develop tailored roadmaps including a specific set of Grounding Actions to carry out, benefitting from the constant support of Front-Runners. The interaction between Front-Runners and Implementers will take place during the whole TIME4CS lifetime. This will be implemented through the development of a mutual learning and knowledge exchange framework, designed to support the implementation and the evaluation of the implementation of grounding actions leading to institutional changes with the ultimate goal to encourage public engagement in science and technology.

Executive Summary

The current document, titled 'First version of TIME4CS Clustering activities and user engagement activities report', has been developed within the framework of the TIME4CS project which is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 101006201.

The purpose of this Deliverable is to present an overview of the communication and dissemination activities completed by the TIME4CS consortium in the first 12 months of the project in order to generate enhanced collaborations with other relevant international organisations and projects on the topic of citizen science (hereinafter referred to as "sister projects").

This report gives an overview of what clustering represents for TIME4CS and details what the project can offer from this perspective. The engagement strategy is also discussed and details are presented for each initial proposed collaboration. The document then presents an overview of the TIME4CS Case studies and the Citizen Science Helix.

This report also discussed future plans that the consortium has in place in order to continue cross-collaboration activities.

1. What is clustering for TIME4CS

The "Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation"[1] defines clusters as structures or organised groups of independent parties (such as innovative start-ups, small, medium and large enterprises, as well as research and knowledge dissemination organisations, non-for-profit organisations and other related economic actors) designed to stimulate innovative activity by promoting sharing of facilities and exchange of knowledge and expertise and by contributing effectively to knowledge transfer, networking, information dissemination and collaboration among the undertakings and other organisations in the cluster.

As a coordination and support action, TIME4CS is recognising the importance of clustering activities in order to maximise not only the project's impact, by promoting its methodology and results, but also to improve the effectiveness of the project's actions and activities, by learning from other organisations' experiences. Thus, the TIME4CS consortium is especially interested in knowledge sharing and networking with both individual organisations and experts, as well as with similar funded projects.

1.1 What we are offering

The development of interdisciplinary cross-collaboration activities between high impact European Union funded projects is an engine for Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation activities. The TIME4CS project includes a dedicated Work Package on Dissemination, communication and exploitation (WP6) in which clustering activities to support close cooperation and joint dissemination strategies with other EU projects tackling similar issues plays an important role (T6.5 Exploitation of project results and clustering activities with other Citizen Science Projects).

For TIME4CS, cross-projects collaboration expands on the international, interdisciplinary and ambitious character of the consortium partners. The main aims of this cross-projects collaborations are:

1. To examine any relevant possible synergies with TIME4CS and the sister projects, funded under the same call. This will also be extended to relevant EU funded projects that are aligned with TIME4CS.
2. To establish a two-way communication and dissemination between TIME4CS and the sister projects
3. To promote the development of science and innovation ideas between the sister projects
4. To support the creation of a strategic expert group on Citizen Science that can influence and support the development of future legislation and funding opportunities aligned with this field
5. To nurture the creation of future consortiums that are aligned with our key ideas and support them in identifying resources to pursue their ideas.

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[1] Annex 1 to the EU 'Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation' (Commission Communication 2014/C 198/01). https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627(01)&from=EN

1.2 What we can do for other initiatives

The TIME4CS project can support other initiatives from 2 main perspectives: human resource - the excellent consortium members and their expertise- and communication and dissemination - the growing community of followers from various online environments (social media platforms and the Citizen Science Helix).

As previously mentioned, the TIME4CS consortium consists of a team of international, interdisciplinary and ambitious experts that work together towards increasing knowledge on the actions leading to Institutional Changes in Research Performing Organizations (RPOs) necessary to promote Public Engagement and Citizen Science in science and technology. Their expertise, both previous to the project and gained during the development of the project activities, can be used to support other initiatives and common actions (e.g. workshops, events, etc), as well as to develop joint deliverables, policies and/or papers.

From the communication and dissemination perspective, TIME4CS can support other projects to increase the visibility of their actions and results. TIME4CS is present on 3 major social media platforms: Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook and its online presence is constantly growing and gaining more supporters. To maintain a constant communication with the public, the project will send out a periodic newsletter. The project also has a dedicated stakeholder community on the Crowdhelix open innovation platform. All these communication tools and how they can be used to support clustering activities are detailed in sections 3 of this deliverable.

2. Mapping of relevant projects and initiatives at EU level

2.1 Mapping Methodology

With the aim of giving TIME4CS results and events a broader outreach and maximise their impact, relevant EU projects and initiatives were identified in the first six months of the project (January-June 2021). The identification of relevant projects and initiatives was a first crucial step to develop an effective and targeted strategy of networking that will be applied during the whole project lifetime.

Projects/initiatives were identified as pertinent to TIME4CS as linked to the project overall objectives and/or activities, along two lines of correlation corresponding to the two main areas of interest of TIME4CS:

- Projects working on how to trigger **Institutional Changes**
- Projects working on **Citizen Science**

The research to identify relevant projects to cluster with was conducted primarily starting from projects suggested by other consortium partners, taking advantage of TIME4CS partners with long lasting expertise in Citizen Science and EU funded projects and their established networks and collaborations. Moreover, the participation to clustering events (e.g. the online cluster event on Institutional Changes co-organised by DG Research and Innovation and the European Research Executive Agency on 1st July 2021) and working groups organized by other projects or associations (e.g. ECSA working groups of CS projects) has been a valuable

asset in the identification of sister projects sharing common objectives with TIME4CS. Finally, the mapping of sister projects relied on the EC projects' database (CORDIS) and on databases/websites of Citizen Science and SwafS projects (e.g. EU-citizen.science projects' database[2]).

For each project, the general description of the project objectives and activities, and any other additional information available online, were taken into account to assess if could be a good target for the networking activity.

2.2 Outcomes of the Mapping

As a result of the mapping exercise described above, a total of **34 projects** were identified and complied in a database maintained by APRE and available in TIME4CS internal sharepoint. The selected projects are listed in the APPENDIX A of this document. For each project, the following information is specified: the life-span, the website, a short description and the funding scheme.

The mapping serves also as internal tracking tool, as relevant information regarding the projects and the last contact established are also reported in the table.

3. Engagement Strategy

In order to establish a connection with the projects the coordinators of each individual project were contacted by email. The initial email contained a short introduction along with a presentation briefly introducing the project and some suggested initial collaboration opportunities:

- profiling the projects on the TIME4CS' website
- supporting dissemination and communication through social media accounts
- profiling the projects in the TIME4CS' newsletter
- an invitation to join the Citizen Science Helix community

Following the initial email, the project representatives were also invited to online meetings in order to discuss in more details the previously-mentioned opportunities and other possible synergies.

3.1 Social media

TIME4CS' presence on social media keeps improving, with more and more people following the project's pages on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook. These platforms create a perfect environment for communication and dissemination, as the followers of these pages already expressed interest in the project.

From a clustering perspective, these virtual platforms provide the easiest way of keeping up with the latest updates on news, results, and events from sister projects and also a quick way to get in touch with them.

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[2] https://eu-citizen.science/projects

Moreover, they can be used to provide support for various initiatives organised by other citizen science projects, by sharing their content.

TIME4CS is following all the sister projects on social media, and it's inviting them to do the same.

3.2 Networking section

TIME4CS' interest in creating synergies with other Citizen Science initiatives is clearly expressed on the project's website, where a dedicated networking section was created (Figure 1).
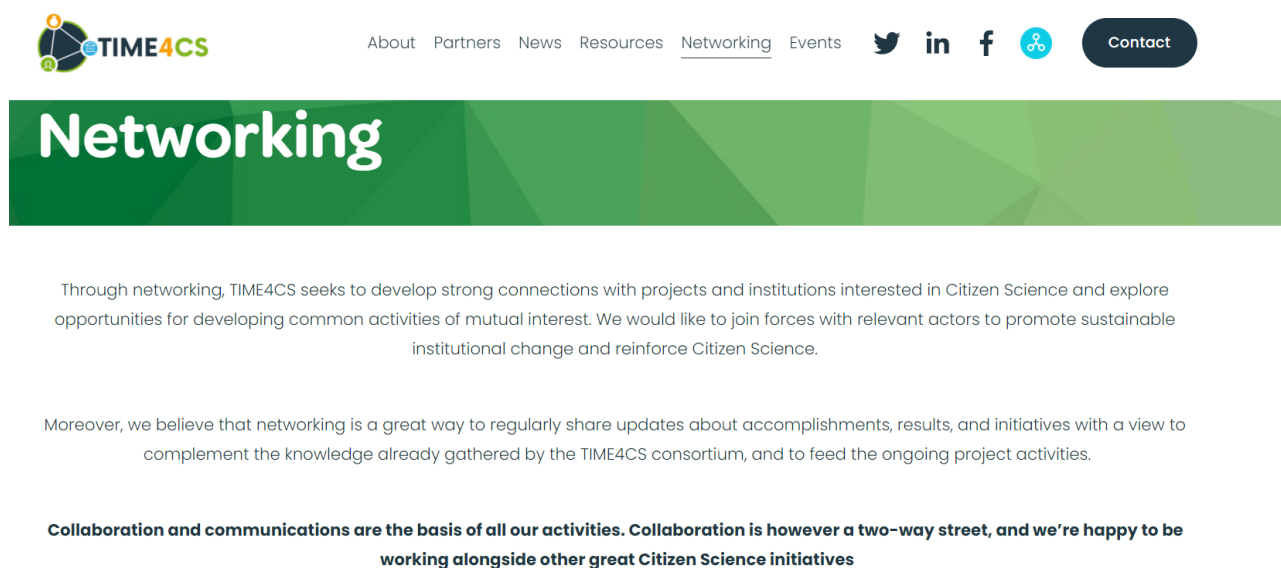

Figure 1 - Networking section on TIME4CS website

In order to encourage common actions between TIME4CS and other citizen science initiatives this section contains an open invitation for viewers to get in touch with an easily accessible "Contact us" button (Figure 2).
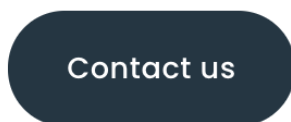

Figure 2 - Invitation to get in touch - Networking page

This section is also used as a communication and dissemination tool that TIME4CS is offering in order to create awareness of other EU-funded Citizen Science and/or Istitutional Changes projects. Each project profiled in this section has a dedicated space containing a short introduction about the project and links to their website and or social media. Other relevant information, such as details about events and workshops, can also be included in this section. To this date (December 2021), 7 sister projects are displayed in the networking section on TIME4CS website and the section will be constantly expanded, following the establishing of contact and exchange of information with the sister projects.

3.3 Newsletter

The newsletter is an effective instrument for periodically publicizing news and results of the project to a public with a specific interest in the project or it's subject. It helps build relationships with the readers, helps organizations establish themselves in a specific field, and it can also be used to widen the scope of an audience.

From a clustering perspective, TIME4CS is using this tool to promote the project's openness to collaboration, and to support other citizen science initiatives to increase their impact and visibility. Like the website, the newsletter has a dedicated section where sister projects and their results can be showcased. This section is also used to encourage other citizen science initiatives to get in touch if they are interested in a cross projects collaboration.

3.4 The Citizen Science Helix Community

The Citizen Science Helix is a technology cluster specially created for TIME4CS. The aim of this virtual space is to create a self-sustainable community of stakeholders for the project (as reported in D6.4 TIME4CS website and Citizen Science Helix)[3]. This online community is based on the ideas of collaboration and open innovation and represents a great space for people to connect with field specialists and/or learn more about Citizen Science. Everyone who can demonstrate a genuine interest in this community can register to the Helix. Consortium members from sister projects were also invited to join the Helix. More information about the Citizen Science Helix and its activities can be found below in section 4.3.

4. Networking activities carried out

4.1 Clustering with other EU funded projects

Up to December 2021, APRE, CHX and UCL contacted via email the following 22 projects and initiatives to establish first contact and discuss possible collaboration (for more information about those projects, see APPENDIX A which lists all selected projects and initiatives):

- **ETHNA System**: https://ethnasystem.eu/

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[3] https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5031594

- **Co-Change**: https://cochangeproject.eu/
- **GRRIP**: https://grrip.eu/
- **INCENTIVE**: https://incentive-project.eu/
- **ProEthics**: https://pro-ethics.eu/
- **SOPs4RI**: https://sops4ri.eu/
- **RESBIOS**: https://resbios.eu/
- **EU-citizen.science**: http://eu-citizen.science/:
- **ECSAnVis**: https://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/research-centres/excites/projects/extreme-citizen-science-analysis-and-visualisation-ecsanvis
- **HEIDI**: https://heidiproject.eu/
- **GRACE**: http://grace-rri.eu/
- **HYBRIDA**: https://hybrida-project.eu/
- **JoinUs4Health**: https://joinus4health.eu/
- **ON-MERRIT**: https://on-merrit.eu/
- **Path2Integrity**: https://www.path2integrity.eu/
- **PRO-RES**: https://prores-project.eu/
- **TechEthos**: https://www.techethos.eu/
- **SUPER_MoRRI**: https://super-morri.eu/
- **ROSiE**: https://rosie-project.eu/
- **MICS**: mics.tools
- **CitieS-Health**: http://citieshealth.eu/
- **CS-Track**: https://cstrack.eu/

After the first contact via email, a call between APRE, CHX and the sister projects shall be organized to better discuss synergies between the projects and discuss potential form of concrete collaborations.

4.2 TIME4CS case studies

As part of WP1 Citizen Science state of the art and overcoming challenges and T1.1 Mapping and analysing institutional Citizens Science adoption, UCL set up a 4 month effort reaching out to Research Performing Organisation (RPOs) -such as Universities and Research Centres and Offices-interested in or already performing activities using a Citizen Science methodology.

4.2.1 Approach

The first approach was made reaching out to Citizen Science networks such as the Australian Citizen Science Association, the European Citizen Science Association, the US Citizen Science Association and the Red de Ciencia Ciudadana Nodo Sur promoting the work done by TIME4CS and inviting RPOs to collaborate as case studies in the project. However, due to the lack of response a more focused approach was implemented, this included reaching out to "Citizen Science Champions", understood as researchers who strongly support Citizen Science practices, and reaching out to partner projects such as HEIDI or EU-Citizen.Science.

4.2.2 The case studies

Following the aforementioned strategies, at least 37 Citizen Science Champions distributed around the world were contacted by email inviting them to collaborate in the TIME4CS project. Those who initially responded to the email invitation were introduced to the general aim and objectives of the TIME4CS and invited to further collaboration with the project by filling a survey about the state of the art of Citizen Science in their institutions. There was a positive response rate of 59.46 %, which meant 22 researchers agreed and contributed with information about their organisation. This information added up to the 3 case studies from UCL, Aarhus University and the Citizen Science Centre Zurich (Front Runners of TIME4CS) and 6 cases collected through desk analysis of literature looking particularly at the actions of RPOs on the adoption of Citizen Science (see Table 1).

The outcomes of the case studies analysis are reported in the D1.1 Mapping and analysing institutional CS adoption due in December 2021.

Table 1 - TIME4CS Case Studies

Europe	America	Asia
University College London (UK)	Universidad de los Andes (CO)	Israel institute of Technology (IL)
Imperial College London (UK)	UNAM (MX)	University of Haifa (IL)
Durham University (UK)	Braindeis University (US)	
Open University (UK)	Cornell University (US)	
University College Cork (IE)	NC State University (US)	
Oficina de ciencia Ciudadana de Barcelona (ES)	Arizona State University (US)	
Leiden University (NL)		
University of Malta (MT)		
BOKU (AT)		
Universität Salzburg (FR)		
Tallin University (EE)		
University of Coimbra(PT)		
IRBLleida (ES)		
Palacký University Olomouc (CZ)		
Trinity College Dublin (IE)		

Thunen Institute (DE)		
Adam Mickiewicz University (PL)		
Czech University of Life Science (CZ)		
GFZ Potsdam (DE)		
University of Gothenburg (SE)		
TU Delft (NL)		

Note: The above is a preliminary list, as more case studies from EU collaborators are expected to be added for their analysis during the months of December/January.

4.3 Citizen Science Helix

The Citizen Science Helix is an international Open Innovation community of specialists in the fields of Citizen Science. Launched to support TIME4CS' impact and dissemination activities, this technology cluster is hosted by Crowdhelix, on their open innovation platform. The Helix aims to form a virtual hub where interested participants are able to follow the project's advancements, activities, events, and results, as well as share specific collaboration opportunities related to this topic.

The goal for this online community is to have 150 organisations profiled in the Helix by the end of the project. So far, the Citizen ScienceHelix is hosting 329 users from over 117 organisations in 31 countries from across 3 continents (Figure 3).
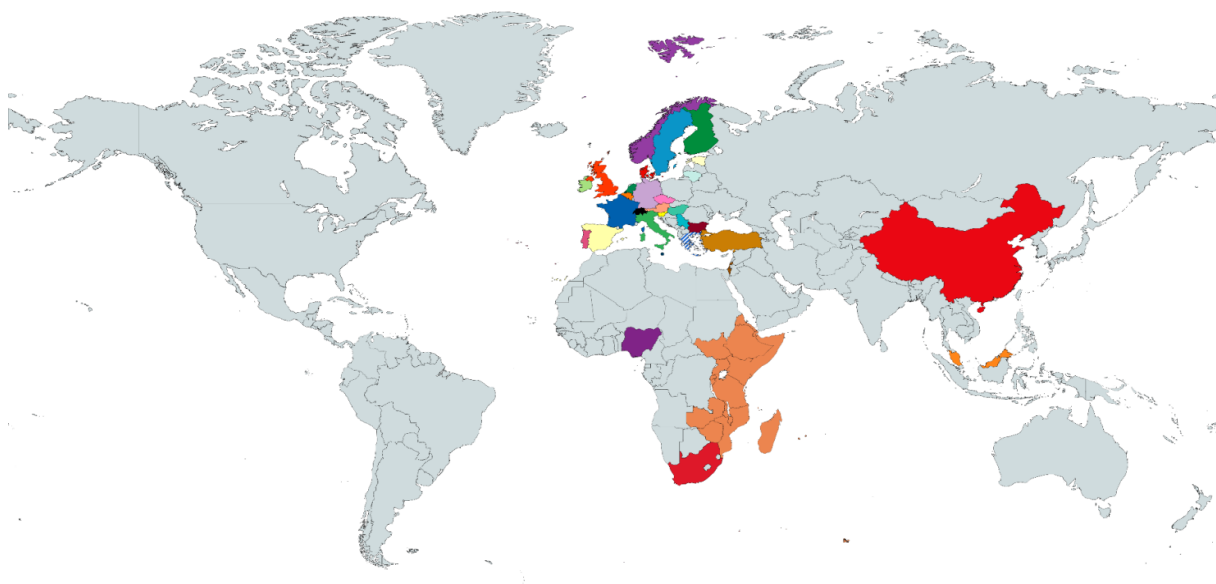

Figure 3 - Countries of the Citizen Science Helix members

The aim for the Citizen Science Helix community is to become a self-sustainable one, so the Consortium aims to invite into the Helix not only domain experts from research performing organisations, but also SMEs and industry partners. Up to date, the community has welcomed 89 universities and research centres with a total of 293 users, 20 SMEs with 28 users, 2 corporates as well as municipalities and other types of members. Project partners as well as consortium members from sister projects and other Citizen Science initiatives were also invited in the Helix.

All members profiled in the Citizen Science Helix have the opportunity to see the activities happening in the community. Moreover they can post opportunities or respond to ones already posted on the Crowdhelix platform either directly or with the help of the Crowdhelix team. This is to ensure that the community stays relevant and focused and relevant for the members.

The Helix also has a Resource section where users can find relevant information not only about the project, but also about other relevant information about citizen science. At the moment, this section offers easy access to:

- The project's social media accounts

- Registration for the project newsletter

- TIME4CS' Zenodo community

- Invitation to become part of the Case Studies

- Contours of citizen science: a vignette study

The Crowdhelix Platform is continuously improving and adding more tools for the Helix communities. The next step for the Citizen Science Helix is to include a section where sister projects can be profiled.

As Part of the Citizen Science Helix, 3 events will be organized during the lifetime of the TIME4CS project. These events will aim to promote the progress and results of the project, while also encouraging collaborations with other Citizen Science initiatives. The first Citizen Science Helix event is planned for the beginning of 2022. This event will be open to everyone interested in Citizen Science and sister projects will be encouraged to join and also promote the event.

5 Networking activities planned (Future plans)

Networking and creating synergies with other Citizen Science initiatives will remain a priority for the TIME4CS consortium and especially for WP6 throughout the lifetime of the projects. The table presented in APPENDIX A will be constantly updated identifying new projects and initiatives, and TIME4CS will keep establishing contact with the listed projects to discuss potential collaborations.

Maintaining a good relationship with sister projects and ensuring a good use of EU funding by maximizing the results of each project and making sure there aren't duplications will be one of the WP6's objectives

going forward. Besides the engagement activities illustrated in Chapter 3. Engagement Strategy, high-level coordination between the different activities will be ensured by frequent communication between the coordination and/or communication offices of the various projects, participation/representation to each other's annual meetings, and organisation of joint events at international conferences. Citizen Science Helix events will also represent a great opportunity for collaboration with sister projects.

Other forms of collaboration such as common deliverables and policies recommendation will also be considered on a case to case basis.

Last, but not least, the consortium will continue to develop the Citizen Science Helix community with relevant stakeholders.

APPENDIX A

Mapping of TIME4CS sister projects

Name	URL	Start	End	Funded
ETHNA System	https://ethnasystem.eu/	01/01/2020	30/06/2023	H2020
Co-Change	https://cochangeproject.eu/	01/02/2020	31/01/2023	H2020
GRRIP	https://grrip.eu/	01/01/2019	31/12/2022	H2020
INCENTIVE	https://incentive-project.eu/	01/02/2021	31/01/2024	H2020
ProEthics	https://pro-ethics.eu/	01/01/2020	31/12/2023	H2020
SOPs4RI	https://sops4ri.eu/	01/01/2019	31/12/2022	H2020
RESBIOS	https://resbios.eu/	01/01/2020	31/12/2022	H2020
EU-citizen.science	http://eu-citizen.science/:	01/01/2019	31/12/2021	H2020
ECSAnVis	https://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/research-centres/excites/projects/extreme-citizen-science-analysis-and-visualisation-ecsanvis	01/11/2016	30/06/2022	H2020 (ERC)
HEIDI	https://heidiproject.eu/	01/06/2021	31/05/2023	Erasmus+
GRACE	http://grace-rri.eu/	01/06/2020	30/11/2023	H2020
HYBRIDA	https://hybrida-project.eu/	01/02/2021	31/01/2024	H2020
JoinUs4Health	https://joinus4health.eu/	01/01/2021	31/12/2023	H2020
ON-MERRIT	https://on-merrit.eu/	01/11/2019	31/03/2022	H2020
Path2Integrity	https://www.path2integrity.eu/	01/01/2019	30/06/2022	H2020
PRO-RES	https://prores-project.eu/	01/05/2018	31/10/2021	H2020
TechEthos	https://www.techethos.eu/	01/01/2021	31/12/2023	H2020
SUPER_MoRRI	https://super-morri.eu/	01/01/2019	31/12/2023	H2020
ROSiE	https://rosie-project.eu/	01/03/2021	29/02/2024	H2020
ACTION	https://actionproject.eu/:	01/02/2019	31/01/2022	H2020
MICS	mics.tools	01/01/2019	31/07/2022	H2020
CoAct	https://coactproject.eu/:	01/01/2020	31/12/2022	H2020
CitieS-Health	http://citieshealth.eu/:	01/01/2019	30/06/2022	H2020
CS-Track	https://cstrack.eu/:	01/12/2019	30/11/2022	H2020
WeCount	https://www.we-count.net/:	01/12/2019	30/11/2021	H2020
CSI-COP	https://csi-cop.eu/:	01/01/2020	30/06/2022	H2020
EnviroCitizen	https://www.envirocitizen.eu	01/04/2020	30/09/2023	H2020
REINFORCE	https://www.reinforceeu.eu/:	01/12/2019	30/11/2022	H2020

Crowd4SDG	https://crowd4sdg.eu/:	01/05/2020	30/04/2023	H2020
D-NOSES	dnoses.eu:	01/04/2018	30/09/2021	H2020
FRANCIS	https://www.francis-project.eu/:	01/02/2021	31/01/2024	H2020
COESO	https://coeso.hypotheses.org/	01/01/2021	31/12/2023	H2020
YOUCOUNT	https://www.youcountproject.eu/	01/02/2021	31/01/2024	H2020
STEP-CHANGE	https://stepchangeproject.eu/	01/03/2021	29/02/2024	H2020