



**TIME4CS statement:**  
**It is Time for  
Citizen Science!**

**and**  
**Overview of key  
recommendations to research  
institutions on the adoption  
of Citizen Science**

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## **TIME4CS statement: It is Time for Citizen Science!**

In today's rapidly changing scientific landscape, research performing organisations (RPOs) must adapt and evolve to meet the demands of an increasingly complex world. One powerful approach that can help achieve this goal is the integration of Citizen Science into the scientific research process. It is time for Citizen Science, and research institutions are urged to embrace this methodology and make the necessary Institutional Changes to facilitate its implementation.

The benefits of adopting Citizen Science are not only scientific but also societal. It empowers citizens to become active participants in the scientific process and fosters a sense of ownership over the knowledge generated. Moreover, it enhances transparency and accountability in research, aligning with the principles of Open Science and data sharing, and democratising science. Participation in Citizen Science projects facilitates the societal acceptance of innovations and new technologies, but also a better understanding of science-based policies. As we face complex global challenges, it is crucial that research institutions seize the opportunity and make Institutional Changes to adopt Citizen Science. The TIME4CS project's methodology and recommendations offer a valuable starting point to embark on this transformative journey.

The adoption of CS in RPOs requires a culture of change, and a combination of the two common approaches to Institutional Change needs to be considered: the social approach and the organisational approach. The social approach looks at social patterns that are modified, requiring a personal commitment of people to change their own mindsets, views and behaviors.

In the organisational approach instead, internal organisational structures such as procedures and norms are modified. In this case the role of governance is important, as while the social approach rather works on bottom-up basis, the organisational approach is implemented mostly top-down.

To be sustainable, these Changes should be irreversible, inclusive, comprehensive and contextualised.

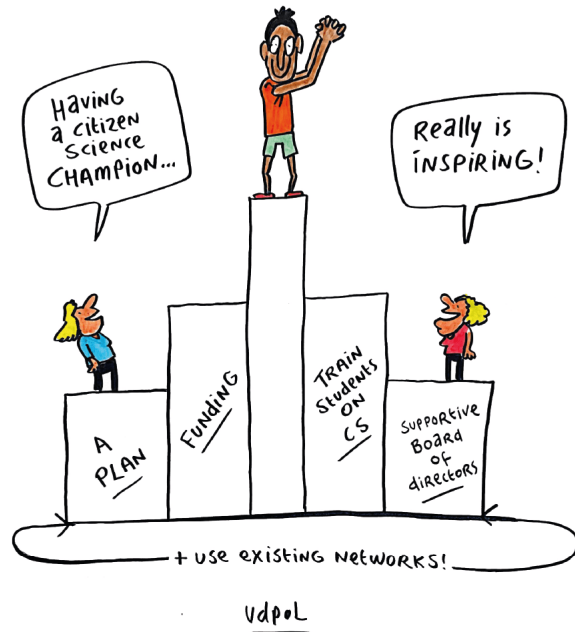
Four drivers of successful Institutional Changes in support of Citizen Science were identified: i) a considerable number of established Citizen Science projects; ii) different types of local, national and international networks for reinforcing collaborations between different actors; iii) Citizen Science champions at different levels at the institution; and iv) the existence of a strategic plan in support of Citizen Science activities. The identification of indicators for changes supporting Citizen Science and the development of a general Roadmap framework also significantly contributed to creating the TIME4CS knowledge base. These results are linked to tangible examples of success and implementation of tailored and flexible Institutional Roadmaps with concrete actions triggering long term changes in project partner RPOs.

**It is time for Citizen Science!** Research institutions have a unique opportunity to leverage the power of engaged members of the public to advance scientific knowledge, increase success in securing funding opportunities and address pressing societal issues by fostering community engagement, and contributing to a more inclusive scientific community. It is time to transform the research ecosystem to embrace Citizen Science and take the path of innovation and collaboration that benefits both science and society.

A set of recommendations for research performing organisations on what works best for the institutional adoption of Citizen Science has been published under the public deliverable D1.4. These recommendations validated by TIME4CS partners are presented around **three main areas**:

## Boosting motivation of both researchers and members of the public to initiate and participate in Citizen Science projects.

This part of recommendations focuses on explaining the benefits of Citizen Science through various communication campaigns both inside and outside your institution, learning the main steps how to develop a Citizen Science project, starting small, identifying and liaising with Citizen Science champions in the institution or its network and thinking about rewarding mechanisms for doing Citizen Science. TIME4CS trainings and webinars are valuable resources to learn more about Citizen Science in institutional contexts. Check our MOOC!



## Ensuring funding for Citizen Science activities.

Organising Citizen Science activities and information events, providing trainings, developing and spreading communication materials as well as other Citizen Science related activities require funds.

Encourage the setup of pilots/tests before the early adopters invest time and resources, provide small grants to facilitate adoption, learn how to write a winning grant, explore local and national foundations and organisations for additional support, consider crowdfunding and look for partnerships.

## Developing and implementing personalised Institutional Roadmaps.

The Institutional Roadmaps are flexible, personalised documents describing concrete actions triggering Institutional Change and put into a common framework within four Intervention Areas identified: i) Education & Awareness; ii) Research; iii) Support resources & Infrastructure; iv) Policy and Assessment.

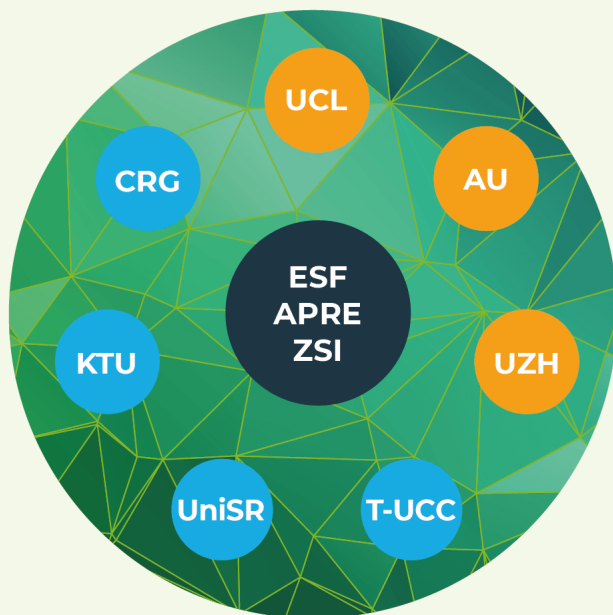
This part of recommendations explains how to set your baseline, make a strategy, build and implement the Roadmaps based on self-tailoring, fast-tracking and long-viewing principles.

Check and make use of a full set of our practical recommendations with all relevant details, concrete steps and examples from the TIME4CS partner institutions' experiences!



## TIME4CS project in a nutshell.

The EU-funded TIME4CS project aims at closing the gap between the limited adoption of Citizen Science as a research methodology across European Universities and RPOs and the important benefits that can derive from it.



The project builds on a knowledge transfer and mutual learning between Front-Runners (Aarhus University, Citizen Science Centre Zurich, University College London) and Implementers. The first ones are RPOs with a comprehensive expertise in Citizen Science and that have already undergone Institutional Changes. The latter are RPOs willing to face the challenge of introducing Citizen Science activities in their structures (Tyndall National Institute, Kaunas University of Technology, Centre for Genomic Regulation, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University).

The mutual learning programme led to the development of specific and tailored Institutional Roadmaps for each Implementer including a set of specific and detailed actions to follow (Grounding Actions). The whole process is supported by the facilitator partners (Agency for the Promotion of European Research – Project Coordinator, European Science Foundation, Centre for Social Innovation). TIME4CS is carried out by a consortium integrating 11 partners from 8 EU Member States and 1 associated country.

Stay in touch with us, check our website, social media and join the Citizen Science Helix!