



D6.7: The Final Version of the TIME4CS Clustering activities and user engagement activities Report

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List of Abbreviations



APRE - Agency for the Promotion of European Research
AT - Austria
CH - Switzerland
CHX – Crowdhelix
CO - Colombia
CZ - The Czech Republic
D – Deliverable
DE - Germany
DK – Denmark
ECSA - European Citizen Science Association
EE - Estonia
ES - Spain
EU – European Union
FI - Finland
FR - France
IAs - Intervention Areas
IE - Ireland
IL – Israel
IT - Italy
LT - Lithuania
LU - Luxembourg
M – month
ML - Malta
MX - Mexico
NL- Netherlands
OS - Open Science
PL - Poland
RI – Research Integrity
RPOs – Research Performing Organisations
RRI – Responsible Research and Innovation
SE - Sweden
SMEs - Small and medium-sized enterprises
SwafS - Science with and for Society
UCL – University College London
UK – United Kingdom
US – United States of America
WP - Work Package

Background Information

TIME4CS – Supporting sustainable Institutional Changes to promote Citizen Science in Science and Technology – is an Horizon 2020 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 to support and facilitate 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 to explore 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 analyses 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, contributed to the definition of a set of practical actions aimed at paving the way to Institutional Changes, defined as Grounding Actions. Front-runners interacted with and mentored four organizations willing to face the challenge of introducing Citizen Science more and more in their structures. These organizations, defined Implementers, within TIME4CS lifetime developed 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 took place during the whole TIME4CS lifetime. This was implemented through the development of a mutual learning and knowledge exchange framework, designed to support the implementation, as well as the evaluation of the implementation of grounding actions, leading to institutional changes with the ultimate goal of encouraging public engagement in science and technology.



Executive Summary

The current document, titled 'The final 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 36 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 initially proposed collaboration. The document then presents an overview of the TIME4CS Case studies and the Citizen Science Helix.

This report also discusses the 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 recognised 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 was especially interested in knowledge sharing and networking with both individual organisations and experts, as well as with similar funded projects.

1.1 What we offered

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-funded 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-project collaboration expands on the international, interdisciplinary and ambitious character of the consortium partners. The main aims of this cross-project collaboration were:

1. To examine any relevant possible synergies with TIME4CS and the sister projects, funded under the same call. This was also 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.

In its final year and with increased maturity, TIME4CS produced tangible results and shared valuable experiences. These included the **development and sharing TIME4CS Statement** (see D1.4 “TIME4CS

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](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627(01)&from=EN)



statement to encourage Institutional Changes to promote Citizen Science²), implementing the **Reflection Tool**³, gaining insights from multiple implementations, **hosting webinars** through WP4⁴, and receiving comprehensive cross-cutting feedback from implementers across various activities. In this regard, TIME4CS made a significant contribution to the extensive influence of EU-funded projects and initiatives in the field. Their pertinent findings enriched the ecosystem accordingly.

1.2 What we did with and for other initiatives

The TIME4CS project provided support to other initiatives from three essential perspectives: human resources, communication and dissemination, and outcomes.

Concerning human resources, 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 before the project and gained during the development of the project activities, was 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 also supported 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 was constantly growing and gaining more supporters. To maintain a constant communication with the public, the project sent out a periodic newsletter (12 in total). The project also has a dedicated stakeholder community on the Crowdhelix open innovation platform. All these communication tools and how they were used to support clustering activities are detailed in section 3 of this deliverable.

During the last year, the project results were reliably implemented and TIME4CS provided mature products that are available to other projects and initiatives. These products are no longer in their early stages which signifies that they are valuable assets accessible to relevant stakeholders. The noteworthy illustrations are the TIME4CS Statement and the Training Programme.

Finally, the project consortium also drew inspiration from others within the ecosystem and benefited from their experiences. This represented a unique opportunity to fine-tune and improve the plans for the last 12 months of the project, aiming, in turn, for even higher quality final results.

² See <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10201230>

³ See <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7022933>

⁴ See D4.2 “Final Version of the Description of TIME4CS training programs”: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6906329> and D4.5 “Report on all webinars”: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10402306>

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 crucial first step to developing an effective and targeted strategy of networking that was applied during the whole project's lifetime.

Projects/initiatives identified as relevant for TIME4CS were linked to the project's 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 mapping 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 in 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) 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 project database⁵).

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 they could be a good target for the networking activities. This process was repeated at the beginning of year 2 of the project when numerous sister projects ended.

2.2 Outcomes of the Mapping

As a result of the mapping exercise described above, a total of **34 projects** were identified and compiled 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 lifespan, the website, a short description and the funding scheme.

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

⁵ <https://eu-citizen.science/projects>

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 to discuss in more details the previously mentioned opportunities and other possible synergies.

Following the initial engagement, the selected projects were also sent relevant information about TIME4CS initiatives such as tools and events. In these communications the projects were encouraged to register to events, interact with the tools and help promote the information within their networks.

3.1 Social media

TIME4CS' presence on social media was close to 900 followers in M24 and was constantly growing, now with more than 1300 people following the project on Twitter and LinkedIn. 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 provided 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. 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 has invited them to do the same. A strong relationship has been established with some of the sister projects which translates into constant support in disseminating (re-sharing) news, events and project deliverables.

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).

Networking

Through networking, TIME4CS seeks to develop strong connections with projects and institutions interested in Citizen Science and explore opportunities for developing common activities of mutual interest. We would like to join forces with relevant actors to promote sustainable institutional change and reinforce Citizen Science.

Moreover, we believe that networking is a great way to regularly share updates about accomplishments, results, and initiatives with a view to complement the knowledge already gathered by the TIME4CS consortium, and to feed the ongoing project activities.

Collaboration and communications are the basis of all our activities. Collaboration is however a two-way street, and we're happy to be working alongside other great Citizen Science initiatives

Figure 1 - Networking section on TIME4CS website

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

If you'd like to work together and have your project showcased on our website,
get in touch with us!

Contact us

Figure 2 - Invitation to get in touch - Networking page

This section was also used as a communication and dissemination tool that TIME4CS was offering in order to create awareness of other EU-funded Citizen Science and/or Institutional Changes projects. Each project profiled in this section has a dedicated space containing a short introduction and links to their website and/or social media. By M36, 11 sister projects are displayed in the networking section on TIME4CS website.

3.3 Newsletter

The newsletter is an effective tool for publicizing news and results of the project periodically to an audience with a specific interest in the project or its topic. 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 used this tool to promote the project's openness to collaboration and to support other citizen science initiatives to increase their impact and visibility. This tool has changed over time as the project and its relationship with the sister initiatives has evolved. Initially, the newsletter had a dedicated section where readers were introduced to other projects. This section changed and now the newsletter also promotes the events of sister projects and encourages the readers to register.

This section was also used to encourage other citizen science initiatives to get in touch if they are interested in a cross-project's collaboration.

3.4 The Citizen Science Helix Community

The Citizen Science Helix is a technology cluster created specifically for TIME4CS. The aim of this virtual space is to create a self-sustainable community of stakeholders for citizen science (as reported in D6.4 TIME4CS website and Citizen Science Helix⁶).

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 for 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 2023, APRE, CHX and UCL contacted via email the following 30 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):

- **AURORA:** <https://www.aurora-h2020.eu/>
- **CitiesS-Health:** <http://citieshealth.eu/>
- **Co-Change:** <https://cochangeproject.eu/>
- **COESO:** <https://coeso.hypotheses.org/>
- **CROWD4SDG:** <https://crowd4sdg.eu/>
- **CS-Track:** <https://cstrack.eu/>

⁶ <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5031594>

- **ECSAnVis:** <https://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/research/research-centres/excites/projects/extreme-citizen-science-analysis-and-visualisation-ecsanvis>
- **EnviroCitizen:** <https://www.envirocitizen.eu/>
- **ETHNA System:** <https://ethnasystem.eu/>
- **EU-citizen.science:** <http://eu-citizen.science/>
- **Genigma:** <https://genigma.app/en/>
- **GRACE:** <http://grace-rri.eu/>
- **GRRIP:** <https://grrip.eu/>
- **HEIDI:** <https://heidiproject.eu/>
- **HYBRIDA:** <https://hybrida-project.eu/>
- **INCENTIVE:** <https://incentive-project.eu/>
- **JoinUs4Health:** <https://joinus4health.eu/>
- **MICS:** <https://mics.tools>
- **ON-MERRIT:** <https://on-merrit.eu/>
- **Path2Integrity:** <https://www.path2integrity.eu/>
- **PRO-RES:** <https://prores-project.eu/>
- **ProEthics:** <https://pro-ethics.eu/>
- **RESBIOS:** <https://resbios.eu/>
- **ROSiE:** <https://rosie-project.eu/>
- **SOPs4RI:** <https://sops4ri.eu/>
- **SUPER_MoRRI:** <https://super-morri.eu/>
- **TEATIME 4 Science:** <http://www.teatime4science.org/>
- **TechEthos:** <https://www.techethos.eu/>
- **WeCount:** <https://www.we-count.net/>
- **YouCount:** <https://www.youcountproject.eu/>

Initially, the projects were sent a short presentation about TIME4CS and potential clustering activities, along with an invitation to set up a call to discuss potential forms of concrete collaborations. The opportunities then varied depending on the projects.

The most common collaboration activities were related to events. Throughout the 36 months of the project, TIME4CS has supported the promotion of various events and has participated in workshops and conferences organised by sister projects. Moreover, all the above-mentioned sister projects were invited to join all TIME4CS events and were involved whenever possible⁷. Some examples of collaborative activities include:

- Five sister projects were invited to participate in a panel discussion during the first Citizen Science Helix event, while another project presented an elevator pitch.
- A webinar on "The Citizen Science funding landscape" with a panel discussion was organised together with the IMPETUS project.

⁷ See D4.5 "Report on all webinars": <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10402306> and D6.3 "Final version of the Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (CDEP)" <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5031579>



- A panel discussion on "Ethical aspects of Citizen Science: good practices and institutional interventions" was organised with the participation of the JoinUs4Health sister project.
- The webinar "What transformations are needed for research institutions to support citizen science?" and the TIME4CS final conference were co-organised with the INCENTIVE project at the First International Citizen Science for Health Conference.
- TIME4CS's participation in poster sessions at external events, as it proved to be an effective method for boosting project visibility and strengthening connections with other projects and stakeholders, such as the OS FAIR conference in September 2023 and other relevant events.

Several other collaborations took place on the online environments where projects supported each other in the promotion of project updates and deliverables. This happened through various channels:

- Social Media - by resharing information
- Websites - through articles, news and podcasts (when applicable)
- Newsletter - by promoting results and events
- Citizen Science Helix community - by promoting collaboration opportunities

Besides common collaboration activities as outlined above, brief descriptions of specific and particularly relevant clustering activities are provided in the dedicated sub-sections down below.

4.1.1 Cross-SwafS Stakeholder Forum for Responsible Open Science (OS)

TIME4CS is part of this forum, which is a recurring session that takes place the first Thursday of every second month, organised by ROSiE project⁸. This Forum aims to share knowledge and experience, discuss challenges and opportunities, and strengthen the knowledge base about RI in OS and further, by: connecting together relevant projects funded under the SwafS calls; identifying existing spaces for communication and exchange among projects in the areas of interest; reflecting on how such spaces could be supported, enhanced, or new ones could be put in place.

The Forum, which hosts more than 10 relevant projects and has reached its 7th Session in December 2022, is usually structured in two sessions: the first one is dedicated to projects' updates, while the second is focused on a discussion topic about Citizen Science, Open Science or RRI chosen from time to time.

4.1.2 Joint SwafS Citizen Science Working Group

TIME4CS is a member of the SwafS Citizen Science Working Group for all citizen science-related SwafS projects, which takes place every second Wednesday of the month. The regular meetings, joined by more than 20 projects from the Citizen Science world and chaired by a different participant every time, represent on one hand the opportunity for projects' updates (including specific calls for collaborations, sharing of results, invitations to events), and on the other hand the place for open discussion on relevant topics suggested by participants from time to time.

In 2023, the working group became part of a specific task within the **European Citizen Science project framework**, with a new coordinator and the new name of ECS-Collaboration Group. A total of 15 CS projects, including TIME4CS, confirmed that they will keep participating, and 22 new CS initiative expressed their interest to join as well.

⁸ More information on each session in the News section of ROSiE website: <https://rosie-project.eu/category/news>

4.1.3 CS Community Swap Shop on Institutional Barriers

On 9th November 2022, TIME4CS, along with INCENTIVE and PRO-Ethics, organised a CS community swap shop⁹ to share information about institutional barriers to citizen participation and discuss possible solutions on common challenges. The workshop took place in the context of the Joint SwafS Citizen Science Working Group regular meeting. However, the three projects decided to open the meeting to external participants who could join the interactive workshop. Participants were divided in small groups and each project facilitated a discussion on MIRO board, to identify the main institutional barriers to Citizen Science.

The workshop theme and set-up were a success with participants, and TIME4CS and INCENTIVE delivered a similar in-person workshop at the C*Sci conference in Phoenix, USA in May 2023¹⁰. This in-person workshop was followed up by a final online webinar, again joint with TIME4CS and INCENTIVE, to bring all learnings together and discuss the outputs from the two previous events¹¹.

4.1.4 Workshop for Transfer of Knowledge and Experience: First results from ETHNA System implementation process

TIME4CS was invited – and attended – ETHNA System workshop, held in Sofia on the 24th of November 2022. The purpose of the workshop was to present and discuss the preliminary results from the implementation of the ETHNA System ethical governance model in six organisations within the consortium. Workshop participants were able to learn from each other, exploit synergies, and contribute to the preliminary validation and evaluation of results from the implementation. The workshop also offered ideas to improve participants' RRI work and enhance the good research and innovation practices in their organisation, as well as a space for exchange of ideas with colleagues from other countries, sharing of experiences regarding barriers, drivers, good practices and potential improvements on issues that are not only important for organisations, but for society in general.

In this context, APRE, representing TIME4CS, presented the project, its methodology and main results, sharing with participants major lessons learned from the first 23 months of implementations and providing useful resources to the ETHNA System consortium members for their work. Nonetheless, the event was a great opportunity to learn new perspectives and possible solutions in the field of RRI from different kind of implementing organisations.

4.1.5 Collaboration with INCENTIVE

Among the different clustering activities covered in this document, those carried out with the INCENTIVE project deserve a dedicated section for their scale and relevance for both projects. Being funded under the same call, TIME4CS and INCENTIVE share most of their final aims, as well as a similar concept and methodology (hence, the same audiences). Therefore, significant efforts have been made, especially during the last year, to join forces across different activities, thus maximising results, optimising opportunities and resources, and most importantly acting, on specific themes, as a call, rather than as two different projects simply crossing their paths.

⁹ <https://www.time4cs.eu/events/8ny4xy46r15c5qd81h0cgycbhuitws>

¹⁰ <https://www.time4cs.eu/news/contributions-from-the-csci-2023-conference>

¹¹ <https://www.time4cs.eu/events/what-transformations-for-research-institute>



Within this context, and besides regular clustering activities as described in this document, the collaboration developed along three main lines of activity:

- **Joint webinars plan:** with both projects having to deliver webinars on various themes related to citizen science, the two projects jointly organised some of them according to the topics to be covered. A cross-projects coordination team was established to co-design concepts, agendas, organise the logistic of the events and involve the most suitable partners from both projects. This implied also a definition of some common visual elements, shared promotional texts and emails for the promotion of joint webinars, shared documents to define the webinars' contents, etc. In the end, out of 10 webinars organised by TIME4CS under WP4, 4 of them were run jointly with INCENTIVE.

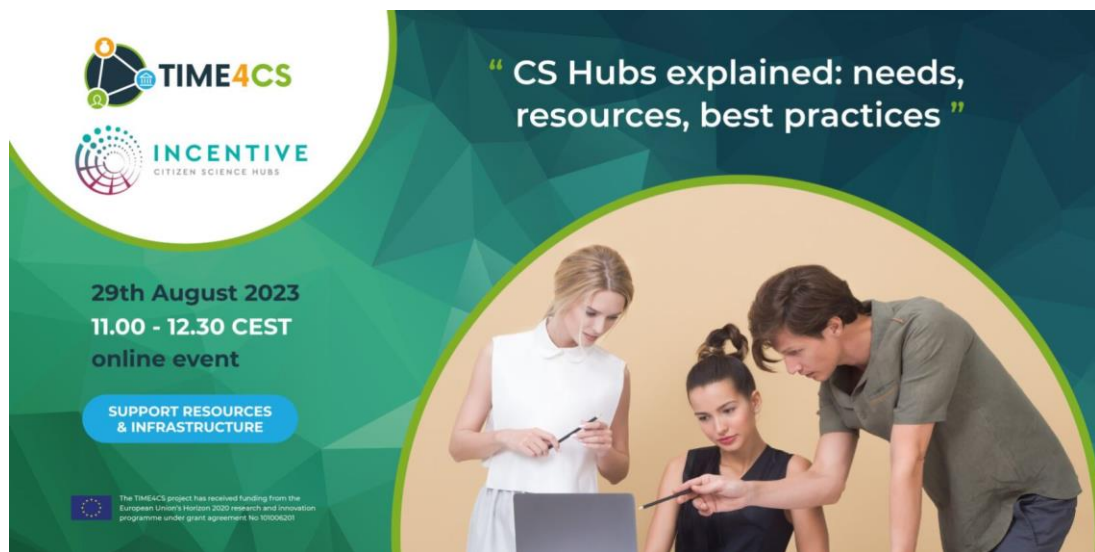


Figure 3 - Promotional card of one of TIME4CS-INCENTIVE webinars

- **Joint policy roundtable:** held on the 18th of September in Brussels, in the REA Building, its scope was the discussion and validation of the projects' findings, and their potential impact on policy and policymaking at the EU level. The target audience of the event were policymakers at the EU level, who actively contributed to the discussion and reflection on the results, with a view to disseminating policy results to a wide European audience. The outputs of the event fed TIME4CS' statement and Final Policy Brief¹².

¹² <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10406849>



Figure 4 - TIME4CS and INCENTIVE EU Policy Roundtable - September 18th, 2023

- **Joint final conference:** held at the DesignLab’s facilities at the Twente University, in the aftermath of the Citizen Science 4 Health Conference, and titled “Grounding Citizen Science in Research Institutions: Science with and for Citizens”, the event represented the last milestone of the collaboration between the two projects. Shaped as a journey of the two projects, grounding citizen science hand-in-hand for the past three years, the event included presentations, interactive sessions, open roundtables, as well as inspiring talks about Citizen Science and institutional changes by honorary speakers. Once again, everything was coordinated, designed, and promoted in a shared way, including a common SharePoint site dedicated to the event only, a tailor-made joint visual identity, a shared promotional plan, etc.



Figure 5 - TIME4CS and INCENTIVE Final Conference "SAVE THE DATE" card

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 and the TIME4CS consortium partners set up efforts reaching out to Research Performing Organisation (RPOs) - such as Universities and Research Centres and Offices - interested in or already performing activities using Citizen Science or Public Engagement in Research methodologies.

4.2.1 Data Collection

Case studies from research-performing organisations (RPOs) were collected online between 2021-2022. An open call was launched on social media and through a multiple referral process, citizen science champions and researchers were invited to share their knowledge and experiences in adopting and using different forms of participatory research methods, including citizen science, in their institutions.

Participants were asked to fill out a questionnaire or were invited for a short interview covering the areas of: *Research* (related to the existence of participatory and citizen science projects), *Education & Awareness* (the training support for conducting participatory research), *Support Resources & Infrastructure* (the availability of different forms of financial and research-related support), and *Policy & Assessment* (the recognition and valuation of participatory research within the organisation).

4.2.2 Data set: the case studies

Following the aforementioned strategy, 31 case studies distributed around the world were collected for the TIME4CS project. This information added up to the three cases 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 **Errore. L'origine riferimento non è stata trovata.**).

The outcomes of the case studies analysis are reported in the D1.1 “Collection of Case Studies of institutional adoption of CS”¹³ and D1.3 “Lessons learnt repository of TIME4CS”¹⁴. The information about the case studies has also been included in an [online repository](#).

Table 1 - TIME4CS Case Studies

Europe	America	Asia
University College London (UK)	Corporación Universitaria Minuto de Dios (CO)	Israel institute of Technology (IL)
Aarhus University (DK)	Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (MX)	University of Haifa (IL)

¹³ <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5807507>

¹⁴ <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6402091>

Competence Center – Citizen Science-Zurich (CH)	Brandeis University (US)	
Imperial College London (UK)	Cornell University (US)	
Durham University (UK)	Arizona State University (US)	
Open University (UK)	Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (CO)	
University College Cork (IE)		
Oficina de Ciencia Ciudadana de Barcelona (ES)		
Leiden University (NL)		
University of Malta (MT)		
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (AT)		
Universität Salzburg (FR)		
Tallin University (EE)		
University of Turku (FI)		
Institut de Recerca Biomèdica de Lleida (ES)		
Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZ)		
Vita-Salute San Raffaele University (IT)		
Thünen Institute (DE)		
Adam Mickiewicz University (PL)		
University Library of Southern Denmark (DK)		
University of Gothenburg (SE)		
TU Delft (NL)		
German Research Centre for Geosciences (DE)		

University of Luxembourg (LU)		
Centre for Genomic Regulation (ES)		
Kaunas University of Technology (LT)		
Tyndall National Institute (IE)		
Muenster University (DE)		
Citizen Science Competence Centre Berlin (DE)		
University of Siena (IT)		
Hanze University (DK)		
National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (FR)		

Note: The list provided as part of D6.6 V1 has been extensively updated to include all cases that were received and considered in the different analyses developed by WP1. The name of the RPO is followed in brackets () by the country code alpha-2.

4.3 Citizen Science Helix

The Citizen Science Helix¹⁵ 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 can follow the project’s advancements, activities, events, and results, as well as share specific collaboration opportunities related to this topic.

The objective for this online community was to have 150 organizations profiled in the Helix by the project's conclusion. As of M36, the Citizen Science Helix hosts 795 users from 249 organizations across 50 countries (Figure 3), underscoring the sustained interest in citizen science.

¹⁵ <https://crowdhelix.com/helixes/citizen-science>



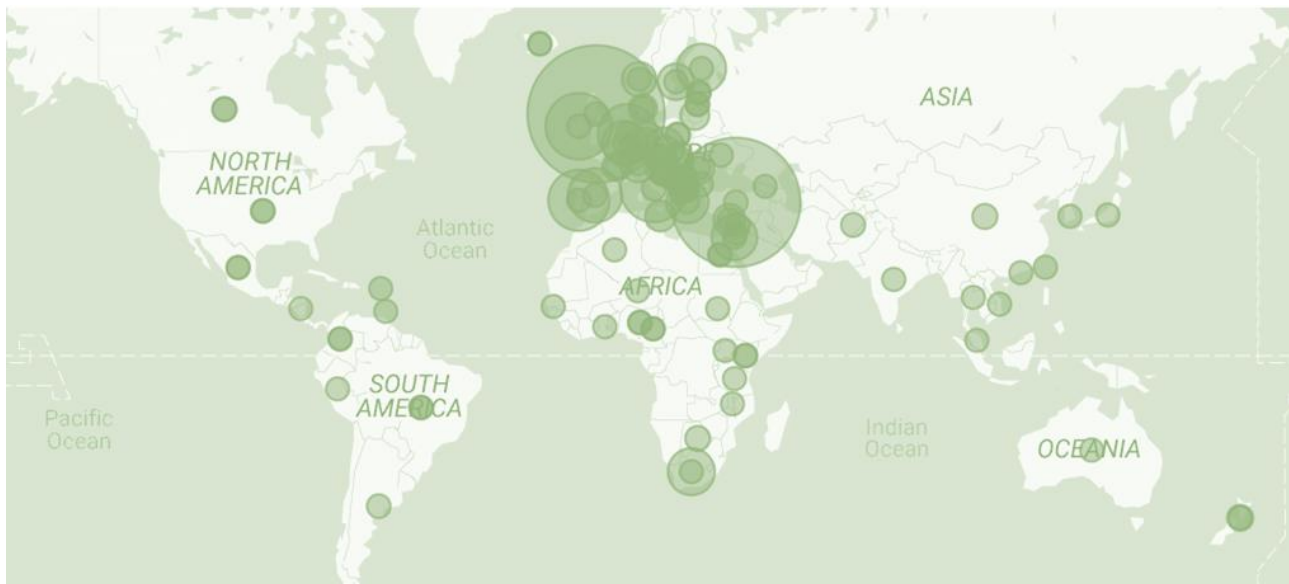


Figure 6 - Countries of the Citizen Science Helix members

The Citizen Science Helix community aims to become a self-sustainable one. The TIME4CS Consortium therefore aimed to invite into the Helix not only domain experts from research-performing organisations but also Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and industry partners. To date, the community has welcomed 176 universities and research centres, 49 SMEs, 6 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 to the Helix.

All members profiled in the Citizen Science Helix can see the activities happening in the community. Moreover, they can post opportunities or respond to the 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 focused and relevant for the members.

The Helix also has a Resource section where users can find relevant information not only about the TIME4CS project, but also other relevant information about citizen science. At the moment, this section offers easy access to:

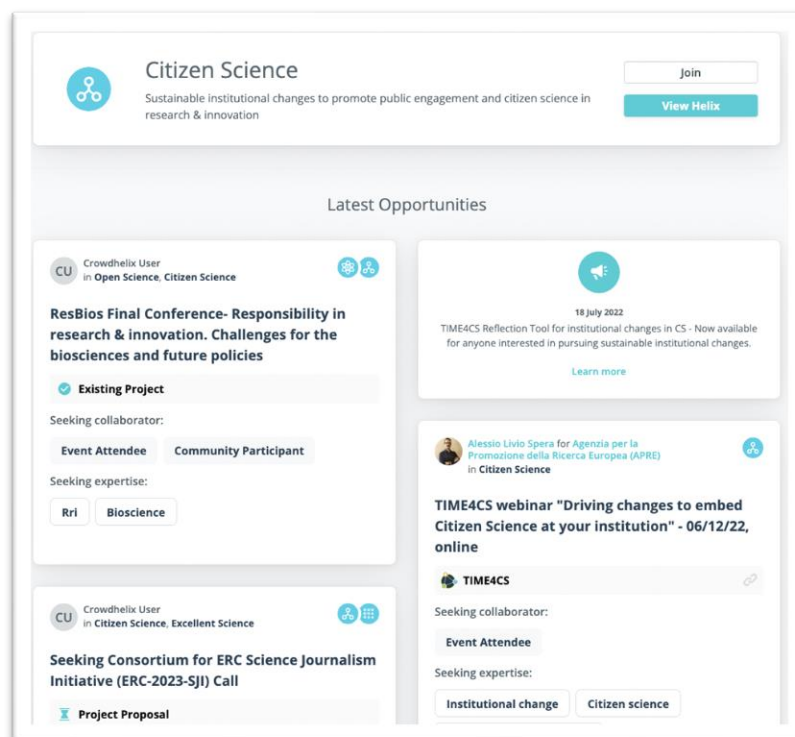
- TIME4CS' social media accounts
- Registration for the project newsletter
- TIME4CS' Zenodo community
- Contours of citizen science: a vignette study
- The TIME4CS Reflection tool for Institutional Changes in Citizen Science

The Crowdhelix Platform has been continuously improving and adding more tools for the community.

The Citizen Science Helix Community has undergone significant enhancements with the introduction of a new interface focused on fostering collaboration. The Helix page now has two distinct sections. The first

section emphasizes the community's focus and collaboration opportunities. The second section provides comprehensive information about the project, events, key organizations, and available resources. A new announcement block was also added to provide timely updates on projects, tools, events, and more.

Additionally, users can now select whether to post opportunities related to existing or upcoming projects. The posting process is customized to meet the needs of existing projects and automatically includes the EU recognition statement. Crowdhelix has recently introduced a new Results feature. This feature allows members to showcase their research outcomes. The aim of this upgrade is to facilitate interaction with professionals, investors, and policymakers, speeding up the sharing of crucial results across diverse fields. The recommender engine has been enhanced using transformer models, such as those in ChatGPT. This improvement aims to promote collaboration and innovation within the Citizen Science Helix Community by providing personalized opportunities that better understand the context. Users can access these advancements by logging into their Crowdhelix accounts.



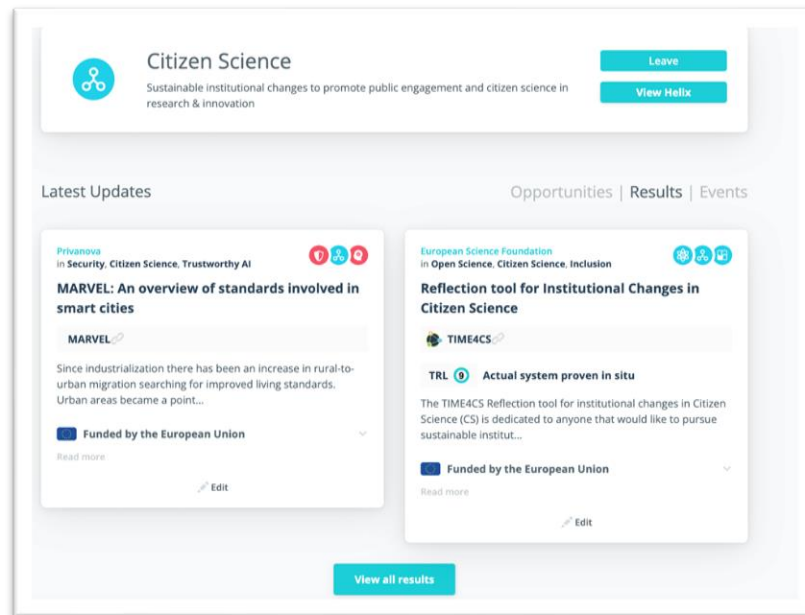


Figure 7 – Images of the Citizen Science Helix

As Part of the Citizen Science Helix, three events were organized during the lifetime of the TIME4CS project. These events aimed to promote the progress and results of the project, while also encouraging collaborations with other Citizen Science initiatives.

The first [Citizen Science Helix Event](#) took place in February 2022 and was focused on “The involvement of citizens in EU Missions Implementation”. The sister projects actively supported the promotion of this event and five of them, representing each of the EU missions, were invited to share their experiences during a panel discussion. One more project has also chosen to promote their experience and sought new collaborators during the elevator pitch sessions organised as part of the event.

In October 2023, the second helix event took place as an online webinar with a focus on "[Citizen Science and Artificial Intelligence Technologies](#)." The aim of this virtual gathering was to combine the efforts of citizen participation and the potential of emerging technologies. This webinar was a combined effort of the TIME4CS and BIAS projects, bringing together the Citizen Science Helix and the Trustworthy AI Helix communities.

The [third Citizen Science Helix Event](#) took place in November 2023 with the objective of demonstrating how integrating Citizen Science into all R&D activities within research organizations can enhance the likelihood of securing funding. The aim was to discover the ways in which such integration can deliver success. The main highlight of the event was the unveiling of the 'TIME4CS Statement.'

5 Networking plans for the future

As the TIME4CS project nears completion, the consortium anticipates a future of active collaboration and synergy with other Citizen Science initiatives. A vital post-project priority is to keep strengthening partnerships already in place and amplifying the influence of collective efforts. To meet these targets, the consortium is designing a set of purposeful initiatives to drive forward cooperative efforts.

The Citizen Science Helix will persist in supporting communication and coordination within TIME4CS partners and sister projects. The platform enables sharing results, best practices, addressing challenges, and identifying new collaborative opportunities. These interactions aim to enhance cross-fertilisation of ideas, share experiential insights, and identify innovative joint prospects.

Recognising the importance of shared publications and policy recommendations, the consortium will explore ways to collaborate on outputs to enhance interconnected projects and make meaningful contributions to broader Citizen Science promotion.

TIME4CS looks forward to the future as a period of continuing partnership, knowledge-sharing and joint efforts with other related projects in the field of citizen science. Through these strategic initiatives, the consortium aims to establish a lasting impact in the field through its support of Citizen Science beyond the end of the project.



APPENDIX A

Mapping of TIME4CS sister projects

Table 2 -List of TIME4CS Sister Projects

Name	URL	Start	End	Funded
ACTION	https://actionproject.eu/	01/02/2019	31/01/2022	H2020
CitieS-Health	http://citieshealth.eu/	01/01/2019	30/06/2022	H2020
Co-Change	https://cochangeproject.eu/	01/02/2020	31/01/2023	H2020
CoAct	https://coactproject.eu/	01/01/2020	31/12/2022	H2020
COESO	https://coeso.hypotheses.org/	01/01/2021	31/12/2023	H2020
Crowd4SDG	https://crowd4sdg.eu/	01/05/2020	30/04/2023	H2020
CS-Track	https://cstrack.eu/	01/12/2019	30/11/2022	H2020
CSI-COP	https://csi-cop.eu/	01/01/2020	30/06/2022	H2020
D-NOSES	dnoses.eu	01/04/2018	30/09/2021	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)
EnviroCitizen	https://www.envirocitizen.eu	01/04/2020	30/09/2023	H2020
ETHNA System	https://ethnashystem.eu/	01/01/2020	30/06/2023	H2020
EU-citizen.science	http://eu-citizen.science/	01/01/2019	31/12/2021	H2020
FRANCIS	https://www.francis-project.eu/	01/02/2021	31/01/2024	H2020
GENIGMA (Orion)	https://genigma.app/en/	01/01/2019 01/05/2017	30/09/2022 30/09/2021	H2020
GRACE	http://grace-rri.eu/	01/06/2020	30/11/2023	H2020
GRRIP	https://grrip.eu/	01/01/2019	31/12/2022	H2020
HEIDI	https://heidiproject.eu/	01/06/2021	31/05/2023	Erasmus+
HYBRIDA	https://hybrida-project.eu/	01/02/2021	31/01/2024	H2020
INCENTIVE	https://incentive-project.eu/	01/02/2021	31/01/2024	H2020
JoinUs4Health	https://joinus4health.eu/	01/01/2021	31/12/2023	H2020
MICS	mics.tools	01/01/2019	31/07/2022	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
ProEthics	https://pro-ethics.eu/	01/01/2020	31/12/2023	H2020
REINFORCE	https://www.reinforceeu.eu/	01/12/2019	30/11/2022	H2020
RESBIOS	https://resbios.eu/	01/01/2020	31/12/2022	H2020
ROSiE	https://rosie-project.eu/	01/03/2021	29/02/2024	H2020
SOPs4RI	https://sops4ri.eu/	01/01/2019	31/12/2022	H2020
STEP-CHANGE	https://stepchangeproject.eu/	01/03/2021	29/02/2024	H2020



SUPER_MoRRI	https://super-morri.eu/	01/01/2019	31/12/2023	H2020
TechEthos	https://www.techethos.eu/	01/01/2021	31/12/2023	H2020
WeCount	https://www.we-count.net/ :	01/12/2019	30/11/2021	H2020
YOUCOUNT	https://www.youcountproject.eu/	01/02/2021	31/01/2024	H2020
ACTION	https://actionproject.eu/ :	01/02/2019	31/01/2022	H2020
CityS-Health	http://citieshealth.eu/ :	01/01/2019	30/06/2022	H2020

