



TRANSFORMING OPEN RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION THROUGH CHARM  
TORCH

DELIVERABLE D9.5 - TORCH: PILOT FINAL REPORT

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

**CHARM-EU** – Challenge Driven, Accessible, Research-based and Mobile European University  
**CHARM-AMRA** – CHARM Alliance Manifesto on Research Assessment  
**CS** – Citizen Science  
**D** – Deliverable  
**EDI** – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion  
**FAIR** – Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, Reusability  
**HE** – Horizon Europe  
**IDP-ICE** – UB Professional Development Institute  
**IdRA** – UB Water Research Institute  
**IP** – Intellectual Property  
**JVRSO** – Joint Virtual Research Support Office  
**MSCA** – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions  
**MSCA-DN** – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Networks  
**NRSO** - Network of Research Support Offices  
**OA** – Open Access  
**PI** – Principal Investigator  
**PMT** – Project management meeting  
**R&I** – Research and Innovation  
**RIS3CAT** - Strategy for the intelligent specialization of Catalonia  
**RMA** – Research Management Assistance  
**RRI** – Responsible Research & Innovation  
**TORCH** – Transforming Open Responsible Research and Innovation through CHARM  
**TTO** – Technology Transfer Office  
**UNIZAR** – University of Zaragoza  
**UN SDGs** – United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals  
**Water4All** – Water4All Partnership Joint Transnational Call  
**WP** – Work package

## ALLIANCE MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

**ÅAU** – Åbo Akademi University; **ELTE** – Eötvös Loránd University Budapest; **HRW** – Hochschule Ruhr West; **JMU** – Julius Maximilian University of Würzburg; **TCD** – Trinity College Dublin; **UB** – University of Barcelona; **UM** – University of Montpellier; **UU** – Utrecht University.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: PILOT FINAL REPORT

The purpose of the Pilot year, i.e., the third and final year of the TORCH project was dedicated, on the one hand, to test the joint open, responsible research and innovation (RRI) strategies and policies developed based on the results of the first 15 months of the project when the partners completed scoping exercises. On the other hand, it is also a central aim of the Pilot year to develop Action Plans (see D9.2) and finalise CHARM-EU Alliance-level R&I strategies (see D8.4) to support the collaboration of Alliance members beyond the TORCH project in the coming years.

The seven Pilots realised in 2023 are the following ones:

- 1) Charting current Equality Data collection practices in CHARM-EU institutions – an action of data collection following the request of the evaluation of the Midterm Report of the project;
- 2) Open Science Rewards and Recognition Toolbox – the first steps of creating a comprehensive toolbox of Open Science rewards and recognition, piloted through one call of a CHARM-EU Open Science Recognition Award;
- 3) Citizen Science Training – piloting a citizen science training module on institutional level at the University of Barcelona;
- 4) Open Science Training – piloting an open science training online and in hybrid format in the collaboration of Alliance members, offered to staff members of CHARM-EU;
- 5) Joint Support Strategy for Research Proposals – supporting research groups in submitting proposals and, by collecting experiences from this process, laying the ground for the long-term RRI collaboration of CHARM-EU, designing a joint research support structure;
- 6) CHARM-EU Research & Innovation Days – a workshop-format thematic networking and brainstorming event for researchers of CHARM-EU member universities to jointly design research proposals;
- 7) Creation of a virtual Technology Transfer Offices' network (TTOs) – linking the TTOs of the member universities and arranging meetings where they define topics of common interest and share experiences and good practices.

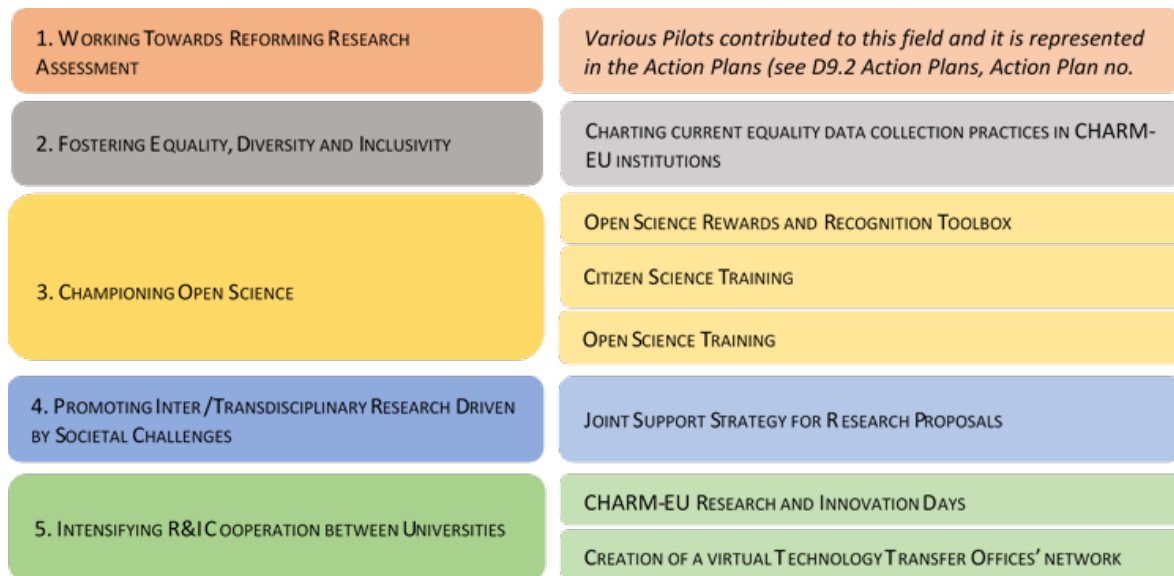
The aim of the present report is to summarise the results of the Pilots and to provide recommendations to WP8 Strategies and Policies to fine-tune those strategic documents that were drafted before the Piloting period.

The structure of the report is fivefold. After an introduction (1), a methodological overview is provided (2) about the process and documentation of piloting. The most extensive section (3) details Pilots. Then (4), the possible ways of continuing of Pilots and the Recommendations to WP8 are listed. Finally (5), a summary of the activities Pilot year is provided with most important events.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the current report, D9.5, Pilot Final Report is threefold.

1. As the final report of a one-year series of activities of the TORCH project, i.e., the Pilot year, the main and general aim of this report is to provide a comprehensive overview of all piloting activities carried out during the year 2023, placing them in the structure of the project, highlighting their interconnections.
2. Another purpose of the present report particularly with respect to three Pilots that have not yet been discussed in other reports is to provide a detailed description of their progression and results.
3. Third, it is a crucial objective of the present report to summarize all the lessons learned from piloting activities and to formulate them as Recommendations to WP8 Strategies and Policies, contributing to the long-term planning of the CHARM-EU Alliance on the five Priority Areas.



**Figure 1.** The five Priority Areas and the Pilots.

Since the planning procedure of the Pilots was detailed in D9.1 Pilot Plans, the methodological section (2) of the present report will focus on the aspects of realising and monitoring the Pilots.

Furthermore, the results of Pilots no. 2, 4, 5 and 7 are detailed in D9.3 Progress Report on In-Progress Pilots (Pilots no. 2, 5, 7), and D9.4 TORCH Open Science Training (Pilot no. 4). To avoid repetition in the discussion, still offering a clear overview and insight into all Pilots, Section 3 provides a birds-eye view on Pilots no. 2, 4, 5 and 7, but the respective Annexes (Annex II, IV, V and VII) provides a detailed discussion of these Pilots through excerpts from D9.3 and 4.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 In-progress pilots and finished pilots

The methodology of selecting Pilots (see D9.1, section 2.2) and the grouping of pilots in terms of completion (see D9.3, section 2.1) were discussed in preceding deliverables. There it was clarified that while a central principle of Pilots' selection was that the planned activities were considered possible to be carried out within 2023, some of them were only meant to reach a level on which they could be reasonably developed up to a point, and their continuation planned. These were called 'In-Progress Pilots' analysed in D9.3.

**Table 1.** In-Progress Pilots.

Pilot no.	Pilot title
2	Open Science rewards and recognition toolbox
5	Joint Support Strategy for Research Proposals*
7	Creation of a virtual Technology Transfer Offices' network (TTOs)

*\*The name of Pilot No. 5. was slightly changed based on the discussions of the WP9 coordinating group. See explanation in D9.3, 2.1.3.*

While in-progress pilots analysed in D9.3 can be considered mid- or long-term series of activities that have been put into motion in 2023 and brought to a certain degree, finished pilots were actions that had a clearly defined goal that can be considered as fully reached at a certain point in time.

**Table 2.** Pilots considered 'finished' within 2023.

Pilot no.	Pilot title	Explanation
1	Charting current Equality Data collection practices in CHARM-EU institutions	The collecting activity is completed within 2023
3	Citizen Science Training	One particular event is carried out as a Pilot
4	Open Science Training	Two particular events are carried out as a Pilot
6	CHARM-EU Research & Innovation Days	One particular event is carried out as a Pilot

Pilot No. 4 Open Science Training is discussed in a dedicated deliverable, D9.4. Thus, henceforth, the four Pilots of Open Science Rewards and Recognition Toolbox (Pilot no. 2), Open Science Training (Pilot no. 4), Joint Support Strategy for Research Proposals (Pilot no. 5), and Creation of a virtual Technology Transfer Offices' network (Pilot no. 7) will only be mentioned or listed for the sake of providing a comprehensive overview but stress will be laid on those pilots that are finished in 2023 and have not yet been discussed in another report. The annexes include the sections detailing pilot progression of Pilots no. 2, 5, 7 (Annex II, V, VII) and Pilot no. 4 (Annex IV).



## 2.2 Realising and documenting pilots

Each pilot carried out in TORCH was led by a Working Group that was coordinated by one TORCH project member university. TORCH project partners participated in each Pilot. Åbo Akademi University and Hochschule Ruhr West participated in some Pilots as new partners of CHARM-EU (without using TORCH project budget).

**Table 3.** Pilots and leading institutions.

Pilot no.	Pilot title	Lead	Participating new partners
1	Charting current equality data collection practices in CHARM-EU institutions	TCD	ÅAU, HRW
2	Open Science Awards and recognition toolbox	ELTE	ÅAU, HRW
3	Citizen Science training	UB	ÅAU, HRW
4	Open Science training	ELTE	
5	Joint Support Strategy for Research Proposals	UB	ÅAU, HRW
6	CHARM-EU Research & Innovation Days	UB	ÅAU, HRW
7	Creation of a virtual Technology Transfer Offices' network (TTOs)	UM	ÅAU

Leading institutions applied various methodologies to collaborate such as online meetings, documents shared on the CHARM-EU SharePoint, dedicated sessions at physical or hybrid TORCH events (see also D9.3, 2.2). While these methodologies are similar, particular pilots are different in many aspects. Methodologically, the main characteristics of Pilots can be summarized as follows.

### 2.2.1 Charting current equality data collection practices in CHARM-EU institutions

**An action of data collection:** This pilot aimed at collecting data on the current institutional gender pay gaps as requested by the project's mid-term review. For this, coordinators of the Pilot used a questionnaire that was filled by the universities and the results were summarised in a report format. *For details, see 3.1 below.*

### 2.2.2 Open Science rewards and recognition toolbox

**An action of conducting an award procedure:** In case of this pilot, a rewards and recognition system for Open Science activities of the staff members of member institutions is being developed. This was tested through an Open Science Recognition Award. *For details, see 3.2 and Annex II.*

### 2.2.3 Citizen Science training

**A training action:** As it was also an important purpose of the TORCH Pilot year to create at least one institutional pilot, a Citizen Science Training was designed in the form of a certified Training Programme at the University of Barcelona in Catalan. *For details, see 3.3 below.*

#### 2.2.4 Open Science training

**A training action:** In this pilot, a methodology had to be worked out for providing Alliance-level Open Science information sessions for staff members, and two events (one online and one hybrid) had to be organised for testing this methodology. *For details, see 3.4 and Annex IV.*

#### 2.2.5 Joint Support Strategy for Research Proposals

**A comprehensive series of actions in research support:** This pilot covered the first steps of creating an Alliance-level procedure of supporting joint transdisciplinary research proposals, creating interinstitutional cooperation between research support units. *For details, see 3.5 and Annex V.*

#### 2.2.6 CHARM-EU Research & Innovation Days

**Action of an interinstitutional transdisciplinary workshop:** Linked to the core purpose of the TORCH project of supporting the creation of multidisciplinary research proposals, the first Research & Innovation Days of the CHARM-EU Alliance were organised in the framework of a Co-Creation Workshop to Address the Water Global Challenges. *For details, see 3.6 below.*

#### 2.2.7 Creation of a virtual Technology Transfer Offices' network (TTOs)

**An action of creating a network of institutional units:** In this case, an Alliance-level network of existing Technology Transfer Offices of CHARM-EU member universities had to be created. *For details, see 3.7 and Annex VII.*

### 2.3 Summarising Pilot results

While the monitoring of pilots was discussed in D9.3, section 2.3, here we are focusing on the final evaluation of Pilots. For that purpose, coordinating universities were asked to fill a Pilot Final Report Template (Annex I) in October 2023. This template included concluding questions on feedback from participants of the pilot; barriers detected through carrying out the pilot; success, positive results of the pilot. Furthermore, the results of finished pilots were discussed in detail at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Internal Forum held at ELTE (leading institution of the pilot year) between 24–25 October 2023.

Some actions, or certain elements of them, could not yet be discussed in detail at the above meeting, i.e., the Open Science Training Day that was held right after the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the same location, the TORCH Research & Innovation Days held between 30–31 October 2023, as well as the Citizen Science event between 6–8<sup>th</sup> November. However, also in case of these events, the coordinating teams discussed all previous activities at the Internal Forum, and held concluding discussions after the final events early November.

It must be stressed that WP8 members were most deeply involved in the concluding sessions of the Pilot Working Groups, and the pieces of recommendation and feedback from WP9 to WP8 that are

also summarised in the present report (and were summarised in D9.3) were discussed at several online meetings and at the Internal Forum with WP8 leadership.

Pilots' results were also reflected by the member universities vice-rectors who met at a session dedicated to strategic planning at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Internal Forum on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

### 3. PILOTS

D9.3 Progress Report on In-Progress Pilots detailed the current status of three pilots, i.e., Open Science rewards and recognition toolbox (Pilot No. 2), Joint Support Strategy for a Research Challenge Proposal (Pilot No. 5), and Creation of a virtual Technology Transfer Offices' network (Pilot No. 7). The pilot on an Open Science Training is discussed in D9.4. To avoid repetition, here we will only briefly mention these four pilots for the sake of providing a full picture of the Pilot year, and detail the other three pilots finished within 2023, i.e., Charting current equality data collection practices in CHARM-EU institutions (Pilot No. 1), Citizen Science Training (Pilot No. 3), and CHARM-EU Research & Innovation Days (Pilot No. 6). Pilots are discussed linked with the respective Priority Areas. The section of D9.3 and D9.4 that detail the progression and results of Pilots no. 2, 4, 5 and 7 are to be found in Annexes II, V and VII (D9.3) and IV (D9.4).

#### 3.1 Fostering Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity: Charting current equality data collection practices in CHARM-EU institutions (Pilot No. 1)

The topic of Pilot 1 roots in one of the three Cross Cutting Principles (WP3), namely gendered innovation, that have been concerned throughout the TORCH project as one aspect of Responsible Research & Innovation. It is also deeply connected with the equality, diversity and inclusivity (EDI) endeavours of the CHARM-EU Alliance.

The purpose of this pilot is to get a picture of current equality data practices in our member institutions, including any barriers, legal or otherwise, to the collection of such data. Following the recommendation made in the Project mid-term review, Pilot Action 1: Charting current equality data collection practices in CHARM-EU institutions will establish the level of equality data collected in each member institution and to what degree it is possible to increase the level and availability of such data.

**It is important to note that the purpose of this pilot is not to collect the numerical data categories outlined in the applied questionnaire, but rather to ascertain what data is collected, by whom, and how it is used. Equally important is to ascertain the data that is not collected and the reasons and barriers affecting this. The sole exception to this is Gender Pay Gap, as we were recommended to provide data on gender pay gap in our institutions as per the Project Mid-term Review.**

Equality data refers to anonymous data in relation to equality and discrimination collected for statistical and evidence purposes and excluding the identification of natural persons concerned. Equality data may be qualitative or quantitative in nature. Such data contributes to the fight against discrimination and promotes equality by providing evidence of existing discrimination, making it transparent and quantifying it (European handbook on equality data 2017).

### 3.1.1 Pilot Progress

1. In the **first period (February–April 2023)** the pilot working group with the leadership of Trinity College Dublin was established. Firstly, a **questionnaire was designed** to chart the member institutions' current practices on equality & diversity data collection, with the help of EDI experts in TCD, in order to (1) chart the member institutions' current practices on equality & diversity data collection, with the help of EDI experts in TCD; (2) collect data on the current institutional gender pay gaps, as requested the project's mid-term review. The pilot team reviewed the questionnaire, and after revision, it was circulated to the member institutions.

The pilot group agreed to mainly communicate by email. Also, the Project Management Team has been updated on the progress at each regularly scheduled meeting (in every fortnight). As most of the pilot group participants were also part of *WP9 – Actions Plans and Pilots*, major updates were shared during WP9 meetings rather than increasing the pilot group participants' existing workload. The nature of the pilot was such that communication was reasonably straightforward and was centred around the circulation and return of the questionnaire.

2. The deadline to return the completed questionnaire, the end of May, fell into the **second period (May–July 2023)**. In June and July, **responses** received from each member institution to the questionnaire to chart the member institutions' current practices on equality & diversity data collection as well as the current situation regarding institutional gender pay gaps have been **analysed** and findings were confirmed with the respective partner university. **Feedback** was invited during the initial consultative phase when the group designed the survey. The feedback received **provided useful insights as to how to design and structure a survey** that could capture the reality of equality data collection in the institutions. For example, the group included questions regarding barriers, legislative or otherwise, to equality data collection in their institutions. We also provided respondents the opportunity to outline any plans or strategies for the development of equality data in their institutions.

3. Writing up the **report** and forming of **recommendations** started late summer and the **third pilot period (August–October)** was dedicated to summarizing the results of the analysis of the current equality data practices.

The gap analysis in D3.3 (*Best Practice Development and Gap Analysis*) recommends that **the collection and analysis of disaggregated sex and gender data as a best practice in Gendered Innovation**. Disaggregated equality data is a vital component of an intersectional approach to tackling inequalities and the complex challenges faced by underrepresented and marginalised groups in our institutions. **The disaggregation of personal data supports intersectional analysis**, as the collection of a broad variety of data categories provides information necessary for considering 'multiple discriminations or "confounding variables"' (European handbook on equality data, 2017 revision, 38) in inequalities. In order to move towards incorporating intersectionality in our approach to equality and inclusion, we must first ascertain **what data categories are collected** in each partner institution **and the conditions surrounding their collection**.

The pilot was a success within the success criteria we had set for ourselves: (1) creation of a document containing a matrix of types of equality data currently collected in member institutions and the collection practices surrounding these; and (2) Collation of Gender Pay Gap data available across CHARM-EU and the creation of a table to illustrate this information.

As an exercise, this level of charting equality data practices would be **repeatable on a semi-regular basis** (every few years in order for practices to develop further in between). Ascertaining what data categories are collected on a consistent basis will support CHARM-EU members in displaying evidence-backed awareness of their populations and will be beneficial in terms of the strategic priority to foster equality, diversity and inclusivity.

**Table 4. Pilot 1 Facts Table.**

<b>Important dates (2023):</b>	
<b>· End of May: deadline of completing questionnaire</b>	
Number of participating TORCH staff members	7
Number of staff members involved at the partners all in all	16

### 3.1.2 Barriers Detected

Regarding the collection of equality and diversity data in the member institutions, the following main barriers were detected and addressed:

In the initial pilot period, as anticipated in the pilot plan, there have been some differing expectations on what the questionnaire should contain and how we ought to approach this pilot. We have been able to mitigate this by clearly communicating expectations and actions, and by being open to the range of practices across our institutions.

From the survey results, **legislative limitations appear as a common barrier to equality data collection** within TORCH institutions. Such restrictions primarily exist **at the national level** and thus vary between member institutions.

Equality data collection is a sensitive issue, and the collection of some personal data categories is prohibited by privacy laws in several jurisdictions within the CHARM-EU Alliance. As such, we approached the pilot with an awareness of the differing cultural factors that might influence equality data practice in TORCH member institutions. By involving partner institutions in the design and development of the survey, we created space for respondents to voice concerns in advance of completing final survey responses. We emphasised to partner institutions that our main purpose was to gain an understanding of the collection practices in their institutions themselves.

Many respondent institutions indicated plans or strategies to increase the level of data types that are permitted for collection, such as gender. In keeping with European best practice, **we recommend that institutions continue to work towards increasing levels of disaggregated equality data** within existing legal parameters.

### 3.1.3 List of Results

Based on the work of the Pilot Group, factual results stemming in the pilot can be summed up here:

- 1) A **questionnaire** was designed and circulated to collect data.
- 2) **Responses** to the questionnaire were received.
- 3) **Analysis of the responses** was conducted on data types, ways of collection, etc.
- 4) **Recommendations** were made upon the outcomes of the analysis.
- 5) **Report** based on analysed questionnaire answers is completed.

Only the five original CHARM-EU/TORCH member institutions were recommended to respond to the survey. The new Alliance partners participated in this pilot study on an opt-in basis. HRW was the only new partner to respond to the survey, and their answers were included. We have produced a full report document as well as a matrix detailing types of equality data currently collected in member institutions and the collection practices surrounding these. This can be disseminated internally as required.

#### 1. Age, gender & nationality

The majority of TORCH institutions collect data on age, gender, and nationality on a mandatory basis. Data collection typically occurs upon recruitment and often on an annual basis for specific reporting. Many respondent institutions reported plans to increase levels of gender data in their institutions. Several respondent institutions also outlined regular reporting mechanisms for gender data, including the calculation of Gender Pay Gap in their institutions. The equality data that is being collected is being used to guide EDI strategies and policies in respective member institutions. Many, but not all the institutions collect gender data beyond the binary categories of male/female and provide options for self-identification in survey questions regarding gender.

#### 2. Disability

All of the respondent institutions report collecting data on disability on an opt-in basis, primarily for the purpose of accessing disability services or recognition.

#### 3. Other categories

TCD is the only member institution to collect data on race/ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation, although on an opt-in basis, and response rates to these data types are low. The collection of data on race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, and religion is legally prohibited or restricted in most respondent institutions.

#### 4. Gender pay gap

- TCD: 11% (June 2022) The Gender Pay Gap for all employees is measured annually in June.

- UB: Figure not yet published. From 2023 on, Gender Pay Gap statistics will be recorded in a regular manner, in line with axis III of UB's Equality Plan<sup>1</sup>.
- UM: 21.12% (2021) UM measures its Gender Pay Gap biennially. The results are published in the Bilan Parité (Parity Report), which is made available internally.
- ELTE: Figure is not collected. There are no legal requirements which oblige the university to calculate the Gender Pay Gap or to make this information publicly available.
- HRW: 7% (2023). Measured on an occasional basis. There are no legal requirements for HRW to calculate or report Gender Pay Gap data.
- UU: Current figure not available. UU does not measure its Gender Pay Gap on a structured basis. There are no legal requirements for UU to calculate or report Gender Pay Gap data.

### 3.2 Championing Open Science: Open Science rewards and recognition toolbox (Pilot No. 2) – brief overview

As the Pilot is detailed in D9.3, here only a brief summary is provided. For details, see Annex II.

In this Pilot, the group conducted a survey to collect good practices regarding Open Science rewards and recognition systems at alliance partners that will be the foundation of the Toolbox of Open Science Rewards and Recognition. An Open Science Recognition Award was selected to be piloted in 2023. A call was formulated, announced and evaluated. The winner was selected early October 2023 by the jury.

#### Results

- 1) An **Open Science Recognition Award** was established and awarded for the first time.
- 2) **The jury members' suggestions** were collected for the future.
- 3) **Lessons learned** to be incorporated in the Open Science Rewards and Recognition Toolbox.
- 4) **Good practices collected** from CHARM-EU member universities' Open Science recognition.

Based on the results it is **recommended that CHARM-EU keeps developing its comprehensive Toolbox of Open Science Rewards and Recognition**, also broadening the scope of the award tested in 2023.

<sup>1</sup> The Spanish Ministry of Universities, the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain, and CRUE Equality published the 'Gender Wage Gap Study in 2023' (available at <https://www.universidades.gob.es/estudio-brecha-salarial-de-genero-2023/>). This report sets UB's figure in 16.0% (average Gender Pay Gap in basic salary, allowances and total pay). UB does not necessarily share the methodology used in this report.



**Table 5.** Pilot 2 facts table.

<b>Important dates (2023):</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>17 July: award call announced</b></li> <li>• <b>15 September: award submission deadline</b></li> <li>• <b>13 October: award results announced</b></li> </ul>	
Number of participating TORCH staff members	16
Number of applications at the OS award	18
Number of jury members in evaluation	7
Number of practices to be included in a future Toolbox	30+

### 3.3 Championing Open Science: Citizen Science Training (Pilot No. 3)

The Citizen Science training represented the category of ‘institutional pilot’, i.e., an action that is carried out at one of the member universities, with support from the partners in terms of continuous consultation but carried out locally in the native language of the institution. Built on its experience dating back a long time in co-creating research projects with social actors, UB succeeded in offering a programme as an officially recognized course.

#### 3.3.1 Pilot Progress

1. In the **first period (February–April 2023)** the pilot working group with the leadership of University of Barcelona was established. As a first step, the framework of a **training programme** was designed and the Pilot Group determined the possible implementation dates. The training consists of 2 superimposed modules and would last for 3 consecutive days. The training programme is developed at UB level. With support from the experts of the Life-long Learning Institute of UB (ICE-IPD), the aim is to get the course officially recognised.

2. In the **second period (May–July 2023)**, the designed training programme was presented to the working group at the working group meeting and implementation dates were confirmed. Preparations started to plan an institutional event to open the training course (to be held on November 6-8 at UB).

Citizen Science need partners from the social sector to co-create scientific projects with scientists. Besides UB teaching staff, the Board of Catalan Third Sector Entities (Taula) and representatives of the Erasmus project *Citizen Science Now*<sup>2</sup> were involved as the first external stakeholders in the pilot, and cooperated in the development of training materials and finalizing the training programme.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://citizenscience-now.org/>

## List of Stakeholders

- Board of Catalan Third Sector Entities (Taula d'Entitats del Tercer Sector de Catalunya<sup>3</sup>)
- Mental Health Catalonia (Salut Mental Catalunya<sup>4</sup>)
- Fundesplai<sup>5</sup> (NGO)
- Pere Tarrés Foundation<sup>6</sup> (NGO)
- RIS3CAT<sup>7</sup> (Strategy for the intelligent specialization of Catalonia, Catalan Government)
- Erasmus project Citizen Science Now.
- H2020 project SENSE<sup>8</sup>
- UB Professional Development Institute (IDP-ICE)<sup>9</sup>
- UB Solidarity Foundation<sup>10</sup>
- UB teaching staff.

3. In the **third period (August–November 2023)** the certified Training Programme on Citizen Science was completed<sup>11</sup>. The 2-level training programme consists of:

- Level 1: Introduction to Citizen Science (Day 1).
- Level 2: Introduction to Citizen Science and in-depth projects development (Days 2-3)<sup>12</sup>.

Dissemination was carried amongst the UB academic community through university channels. An opening event was organized with UB leadership, programme organizers and teachers, relevant stakeholders, citizen science research groups, students and general public.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.tercersector.cat/>

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.salutmental.org/>

<sup>5</sup> See <https://fundesplai.org/>

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.peretarres.org/en>

<sup>7</sup> See [https://fonseuropeus.gencat.cat/ca/ris3cat/index.html#googtrans\(ca|en\)](https://fonseuropeus.gencat.cat/ca/ris3cat/index.html#googtrans(ca|en))

<sup>8</sup> See <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101058507>

<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.ub.edu/idp/web/>

<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.solidaritat.ub.edu/?lang=en>

<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.ub.edu/idp/web/ca/noticies/cienciaciudadana> and

[https://www.ub.edu/idp/web/sites/default/files/docs/Flyer-CC\\_novembre-23\\_1.pdf](https://www.ub.edu/idp/web/sites/default/files/docs/Flyer-CC_novembre-23_1.pdf) (in Catalan)

<sup>12</sup> Find more details in Annex III.

### 3.3.2 Barriers Detected

Regarding the planning and organization of the Citizen Science training, no significant barriers were detected.

### 3.3.3 List of Results

- 1) Training programme **officially recognized** by UB Professional Development Institute (IDP-ICE).
- 2) Training **successfully carried out** with 151 registrations and 134 participants (Day 1); and 92 registrations and 73 participants (Days 2-3). Profile of the participants: University staff / Lecturer (76, 53%), University Students (6, 4%), Social Organizations (33 23%), Citizens (8, 6%), Companies (8, 6%), Public administration (12, 8%). 54 from UB, 81 non-UB.
- 3) **Updated census** of CS projects in UB and showcased on institutional website<sup>13</sup>.
- 4) Materials translated and **made available** in English for sharing and further dissemination<sup>14</sup>.
- 5) **Officially recognized working group** on CS as a mutual learning space and as a place to create training activities (IDP).
- 6) **Assessment and summary of needs** for future training plans inside UB. The survey had 2 specific statements addressing this goal. "I would like to do a training in citizen science again." (Responses in 1-5 Likert Scale) Average = 4.36. "I would like to go even deeper with a new training in citizen science linked to the third sector." (Responses in 1-5 Likert Scale) Average = 4.28.

Based on the results it is **recommended to extend the experience of the Citizen Science training to the other members of the Alliance** (i.e. for the partners to design and implement their own training programmes). In addition, it is suggested that the topic of this training is considered to be part of future CHARM-EU educational programmes (for instance, microcredentials).

**Table 6.** Pilot 3 Facts Table.

<b>Important dates (2023):</b>	
<b>• 6 Nov. Opening ceremony</b>	
Number of staff members participating in training design	21 + support staff
Course length	1 or 2 days (4 or 10 hours)
Number of registrations	151 (Day 1), 92 (Days 2-3)
Number of participants	144 (Day 1), 78 (Days 2-3)
Number of external stakeholders	10 (entities/organizations)
Languages the course material is available in	1+1 (translation in progress)

<sup>13</sup> See <https://web.ub.edu/en/web/ciencia-ciudadana>

<sup>14</sup> See 13 and <https://zenodo.org/records/10366173>

### 3.4 Championing Open Science: Open Science Training (Pilot No. 4) – brief overview

As the Open Science Days organized by TORCH in 2023 are detailed in a separate deliverable (D9.4), here only a brief summary is provided. For details on Pilot No. 4, see Annex IV.

The **1st CHARM-EU Open Science Day** was organized on **9 June 2023** in online format (MS Teams). Three partner universities, ELTE, UB and TCD were represented by speakers at the event. The content was designed with a focus on university leadership and management.

#### Results

- **8 speakers from 3 partner institutions**
- Out of **118 registrations, altogether 77 participants attended** the event
- Presentations made available online for those having attended the program.

The **2nd CHARM-EU Open Science Day** was organized on **26 October 2023** in hybrid – Venue: Aula Magna, Faculty of Law, ELTE, Budapest + online (MS Teams), linked with the 3<sup>rd</sup> TORCH Internal Forum. The aim of the program was to share experience on how to change the Open Science culture and practice of universities. While the first event consisted basically of presentations, the second training had workshop elements. Four partner universities, ELTE, TCD, UM and UU were represented by speakers.

#### Results

- **7 speakers from 4 partner institutions**
- Out of **170 registrations, altogether 40 on site and 30 online participants** attended the event

Based on the results **it is recommended that Open Science trainings are implemented in the practice of CHARM-EU**, while the desire for increased interaction and diverse lecture styles highlights **a need for a dynamic and engaging Open Science training environment**.

**Table 7.** Pilot 4 Facts Table.

<b>Important dates (2023):</b>	
· <b>9 June: online Open Science Day</b>	
· <b>26 Oct.: hybrid Open Science Day</b>	
Number of registrations – online event	118
Number of participants – online event	77
Number of registrations – hybrid event	170
Number participants – hybrid event	70 (40 in person, 30 online)
Number of presenters – online event	8 from 3 institutions
Number of presenters – hybrid event	7 from 4 institutions (1 online)

### 3.5 Promoting inter-/transdisciplinary research: Joint Support Strategy for Research Proposals (Pilot No. 5) – brief overview

As the Pilot is detailed in D9.3, here only a brief summary is provided. For details, see Annex V.

A group of various research support units worked on a jointly designed and operated research support structure, sharing good practices, discussing Alliance needs. The group designed a **Research Support website** and a **Researchers Database Form** to be sent out to researchers to test the idea. This was tested through a feedback form amongst researchers (64), and at the end, a first approach to a massive dissemination campaign was led with a larger sample of researchers (448) over the Alliance.

A **Workshop for research support offices** was organized and held in Budapest June 29–30. The group was involved in creating the Action Plan on a Joint Virtual Research Support Office (see D9.2 Action Plans, Action Plan 3). The Action Plan aims at 1) Creating a Network of Research Support Offices (NRSO) that would empower our institutional offices as driving forces and a bridge between different actors involved in R&I activities; 2) Exploring the creation of a Joint Virtual Research Support Office (JVRSO), as an evolution of the Network.

#### Results

Based on the work of the Pilot Group, factual results stemming in the pilot can be summed up here:

- 1) **Action Plan 3**, clearly reflecting the needs tackled during the piloting period (see D9.2).
- 2) **3 research proposals** submitted to different European funding calls.
- 3) **Research support website**: directory of research support units<sup>15</sup>; CHARM-EU Guide of Experts<sup>16</sup>; Collaboration Networks apps<sup>17</sup>.
- 4) **Poster**<sup>18</sup> presented at the Science with and for Society in European Universities Alliances: Cross-Alliances Forum 2023<sup>19</sup>.

Based on the results it is **recommended that efforts are invested in continuing the creation and reinforcement of multidisciplinary teams of researchers** around the SGDs, in designing protocols to find viable PIs that could lead European projects proposals, and in involving the partners' Research Support Units in an active role.

<sup>15</sup> See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/contact-points>

<sup>16</sup> See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch/researcher-finder>

<sup>17</sup> See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/collaboration-networks-app>

<sup>18</sup> See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/sites/default/files/2023-11/TORCHcommonsienceagenda-poster2023%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/science-and-society-european-universities-alliances-0>

**Table 8.** Pilot 5 facts table.

<b>Important dates (2023):</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>29–30 June: meeting of Research Support Units (Budapest)</b></li> <li>• <b>16 October–15 November: Guide of Experts dissemination test phase</b></li> </ul>	
Number of participating TORCH staff members	9
Number of collaborating researchers in research groups	94
Number of collaborating support staff members	18
Number of submitted research proposals	3
Number of awarded research proposals	1
Number of researchers contacted for the Guide of Experts in test phase	64 + 448

### 3.6 Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities: CHARM-EU Research & Innovation Days (Pilot No. 6)

As a pilot workshop for collaborative creation of research proposals, CHARM-EU member institutions organized the first Research & Innovation Days at the University Barcelona between 30–31 October 2023, utilizing results of the scoping activities of WP4 Common Science Agenda, as well as of Pilot No. 5. Joint Support Strategy for Research Proposals.

#### 3.6.1 Pilot Progress

1. In the **first period (February–April 2023)**, a working group was created to develop the Research & Innovation Days. Considering the fact that this event also needed input and experiences from other pilots, working group members started the arrangements in the second Pilot period.
2. In the **second period (May–July 2023)**, the working group decided on meeting date and venue, the general topic, as well as a tentative agenda. A proposal was submitted to the CHARM-EU Academic Board, and an academic chair for the programme was appointed.

The general topic approved was the global challenge of Water, also linked with previous activities of the CHARM-EU alliance, this is one of the most extensive areas in terms of the number of involved academic staff members, already detected expertise at the partner institutions, jointly developed proposals in previous phases of the TORCH project.

The meeting, held in Barcelona on 30–31 October, was entitled ‘Building Multidisciplinary Research Proposals: A Co-Creation Workshop to Address the Water Global Challenges’.<sup>20</sup> Dissemination was carried out with the cooperation of TORCH project managers through CHARM-EU channels.<sup>21</sup> Both

<sup>20</sup> See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/charm-eu-ri-days-2023-1st-edition> (event webpage) and <https://www.charm-eu.eu/diving-water-related-challenges> (event recap piece).

<sup>21</sup> See poster in Annex VI.

UB Water Research Institute<sup>22</sup> (IdRA) and the UNESCO Center on Water<sup>23</sup> (Montpellier) collaborated in the organization of the event.

3. In the **third period (September–November 2023)** the agenda was closed, expressions of interest to participate were collected, and a wider dissemination campaign among researchers was carried out at the partner universities. A preliminary list of funding calls was created and shared with the participants to ease the starting of discussions at the meeting. At the same time, personal invitations were sent out to all participants. Meeting logistics were arranged (meals and coffees, teambuilding activity, materials).

The co-creation workshop welcomed participants from diverse universities (UB, TCD, UU, ELTE, UM, JMU, HRW and UNIZAR) and backgrounds, as well as external stakeholders (Catalan Water Partnership,<sup>24</sup> ADASA,<sup>25</sup> Grand Port Maritime de Marseille<sup>26</sup>). Together, they worked on building research proposals with innovative solutions to address water-related issues. Four multidisciplinary and multi-university teams were formed, in order to develop four research proposals addressed at: water governance, coastal waters management, water re-use, and urban landscape.

We consider the event was successful in terms of fostering new multidisciplinary networks. Therefore, **we recommend that CHARM-EU adopts the R&I Days as a fixed yearly activity**, which could include at least one in-person meeting around a certain topic, and several online seminars, meetings, etc., in order to facilitate interaction and collaboration among researchers within the CHARM-EU framework.

**Table 9. Pilot 6 Facts Table.**

<b>Important dates (2023):</b>	
<b>• 30–31 Oct.: R&amp;I Days held at UB</b>	
Number of participating TORCH staff members	9
Number of R&I Days registrations	46
Number of R&I Days participants	46
Number of external stakeholders invited	5
Number of external stakeholders participating	4
Number of researchers teams and research proposals created at the event	4

<sup>22</sup> See <http://www.ub.edu/aigua/en/>

<sup>23</sup> See <https://en.unesco-montpellier.org/about-us>

<sup>24</sup> See <https://cwp.cat/en/home/>

<sup>25</sup> See <https://www.adasasystems.com/en/>

<sup>26</sup> See <https://www.marseille-port.fr/en/node>

### 3.6.2 Barriers Detected

The involvement of a wider group of researchers was difficult, and the direct involvement of TORCH project management was required to mitigate. The Water4All research team also meant an important focus group to be invited and to further collaborate in the framework of the event with newly involved staff members.

### 3.6.3 List of Results

- 1) A **successful R&I Days** event designed and carried out 30–31 Oct. 2023 with 47 participants from 7 CHARM-EU institutions (including new partners), and external stakeholders.
- 2) Four research groups formed, and preliminary proposals were drafted during the event.
- 3) A co-creation methodology was successfully tested to engage multidisciplinary researchers in devising potential research projects to target European funding calls.
- 4) The meeting also worked foster the creation of new scientific networks within the Alliance.

## 3.7 Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities: Creation of a virtual Technology Transfer Offices' network (TTOs) (Pilot No. 7) – *brief overview*

As the Pilot is detailed in D9.3, here only a brief summary is provided. For details, see Annex VII.

In the framework of this Pilot, a network of member universities TTOs was established and two online meetings were arranged in May and June 2023 with the objective **to discuss about several subjects and exchange some good practices, documents, experiences and feedback.**

- **11 May:** creation of spinoff and startup companies supported by university resources; knowledge transfer; engagement program; evaluate research-based inventions and IP transfers;
- **5 June:** Social innovation; student entrepreneurship; proof of concept.

Discussions started with the coordinators of the work package on Non-Academic Partnerships (WP15) of the CHARM-EIGHT project about the continuation of the activities. As part of the Pilot, UM decided to finance the entry fees for all TTOs part of the Pilot Plan to attend the ASTP Conference<sup>27</sup> in Estonia between May 24–26, 2023.

### Results

- 1) **A team of member universities' TTOs** having joint experience, connected with each other
- 2) **Sharepoint site** as an online space to share documents, process, good practices etc.

<sup>27</sup> See <https://www.astp4kt.eu/>



3) **Idea of a directory** for the future to be realised in cooperation with CHARM-EIGHT WP 15.

Based on the results it is **recommended that the network of TTOs is further strengthened and joint initiatives are started** including a joint directory, joint proposals etc.

**Table 10.** Pilot 7 facts table.

<b>Important dates (2023):</b>	
· <b>11 May: First online meeting of TTOs</b>	
· <b>5 June: Second online meeting of TTOs</b>	
· <b>24-26 May: ASTP Conference</b>	
Number of participating TORCH staff members	14
Number of collaborating TTO staff members	3
Number of participants at the ASTP Conference in Estonia	6 (2 UM, 2 UB, 1 UU, 1 ELTE)

### 3.8 Barriers' and mitigation actions' summary

Based on the experiences of the Pilots, the following table summarizes the main barriers detected by the working groups, referring to main mitigation actions where relevant.

**Table 11.** Barriers and Mitigation summary.

	<b>Barrier (briefly referred)</b>	<b>Mitigation action (briefly referred)</b>
Pilot 1	Different understanding of equality data survey content.	Communication, discussions.
	Legislative limitation (national).	Aiming at understanding differences instead of unified results.
Pilot 2	Lack of time to pilot various tools.	Survey to have a comprehensive overview and piloting one element.
	Lack of financial guarantees.	Staff mobility chosen as a 'prize' for the sake of piloting.
Pilot 4	Coordinating schedules across multiple institutions.	Hybrid solutions and joint planning.
	Participant engagement in an online setting is difficult.	Methods of interactivity prioritised whenever possible in training planning.
Pilot 5	Lack of human and financial resources in supporting research groups.	Involving institutions' respective units as much as possible to support the teams.
	Complexity of the requirements towards online databases.	Involving CHARM-EU Executive Board and respective work packages in the discussion.
Pilot 6	Involvement of a wider group of researchers is difficult.	Involving TORCH Project Management in the arrangements.
Pilot 7	Reaching relevant units at each member university is difficult.	Involving TORCH Project Management in the arrangements.

It can be concluded, that in case of the majority of Pilots, the main barriers were caused by the lack of time, financial and human resources, and the mitigation actions consisted of requesting support from TORCH Project Management, CHARM-EU Alliance-level management, or certain units of the member institutions. It is important to stress that the above table only contains barriers and mitigation actions linked with the Pilots. A general overview summarising the findings of the whole project in the context of the work of CHARM-EU as an Alliance is to be found in a Policy Brief<sup>28</sup>.

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<sup>28</sup> D11.4 - Short Policy Brief 2. Available online: <https://www.charm-eu.eu/sites/default/files/2023-12/D11.4%20-%20Short%20Policy%20Brief%202.pdf>

## 4. NEXT STEPS BASED ON PILOTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS EMERGING FROM THE PILOTS

The Pilot year of 2023 was aimed at supporting the strategic planning activities of the CHARM-EU Alliance carried out in TORCH WP8. While Action Plans covered mid-term planning (see D9.2), WP8 deliverables (see D8.4) are meant to describe the long-term R&I strategic goals of CHARM-EU. Here we are going to summarise how the actions started in the Pilots can be continued and how they feed into strategic planning.

### 4.1 Next Steps based on Pilots

Since the continuation of In-Progress Pilots was detailed in D9.3, section 4.1, and further developments in Open Science trainings in D9.4, section 4, these will only be mentioned here briefly.

#### 4.1.1 Charting current equality data collection practices in CHARM-EU institutions

As it was mentioned at the Pilot's progression, charting equality data practices can be repeated on a semi-regular basis, supporting Alliance members in displaying evidence-backed awareness of their populations. This would be beneficial for the strategic priority of mainstreaming equality, diversity and inclusivity, a purpose that is also in the focus of Action Plan 2, 'R&I Section of the CHARM-EU Inclusivity Plan' (see D9.2).

#### 4.1.2 Open Science rewards and recognition toolbox – *brief overview*

Development of a comprehensive Rewards and Recognition Toolbox for CHARM-EU based on good practices collected during the Pilot.

#### 4.1.3 Citizen Science training

The training materials' translation into English can soon happen as already mentioned in the Pilot's report. This enables CHARM-EU partners to involve staff members not speaking Catalan in the certified programmes. This also provides an example of a local staff training programme becoming available for staff members of the Alliance. Completion of the training is desirable for academic staff members working in other CHARM-EU projects that are suitable to be linked with a Citizen Science approach (e.g., certain research projects or challenges developed in the framework of various CHARM-EU programmes).

#### 4.1.4 Open Science training – *brief overview*

CHARM-EU Open Science Days can be held frequently with the participation of all member universities as presenters and trainers, with various target groups (support staff, academic staff, PhD students, leadership etc.) at the partners.

#### 4.1.5 Joint Support Strategy for Research Proposals – *brief overview*

Following Action Plan 3 (see D9.2, section 3.1, AP3) next steps can be the establishment of a Network of Research Support Offices of CHARM-EU and, on a longer term, the CHARM-EU Joint Virtual Research Support Office.

#### 4.1.6 CHARM-EU Research & Innovation Days

The CHARM-EU R&I Days can become a frequent (at least annual or more frequent) event of CHARM-EU, focusing on a different topic in each case. These multi- and transdisciplinary workshops can become sources of interinstitutional and transnational joint proposals to be submitted at European calls, e.g., HE or MSCA actions. Furthermore, these occasions can provide opportunity for various groups of the Alliance to meet and cooperate, i.e., researchers, Research Support Offices, TTOs, Open Science (incl. Citizen Science) support staff members, as well as external stakeholders. Organised at a different university in each case, the event also serves as a tool of disseminating the results of the work of CHARM-EU as the event can be linked with various programmes at the organising university.

#### 4.1.7 Creation of a virtual Technology Transfer Offices' network (TTOs) – *brief overview*

Continuous collaboration to be operated between CHARM-EU member institutions' TTOs, also linked with the work of CHARM-EIGHT WP15 Non-Academic Partnerships.

### 4.2. Recommendations emerging from the pilots

In this section, recommendations emerging from the Pilots are collected. While the recommendations are grouped by the five Priority Areas of the TORCH project, in each case, barriers and lessons learned of each relevant Pilot were considered, i.e., not only the ones that represented the Priority area in question. The links with Action Plans stemming in the TORCH project are also highlighted where relevant.

D9.3 detailed how those pilots that are currently ongoing contribute to the work of WP8. Thus, below we are going to focus on how the pilots finished within 2023 feed into WP8, only mentioning In-Progress pilots for the sake of providing a comprehensive view on the pilot year.

#### 4.2.1 Working Towards Reforming Research Assessment

1. Based on the feedback received from participants at the occasions of Pilot trainings (Pilots 3 and 4), colleagues involved in the creation of the Open Science Recognition Award (Pilot 2), from researchers participating at working group meetings (Pilot 5) and the R&I Days (Pilot 6), it is **recommended that the CHARM-EU Alliance remains committed to a reform of Research Assessment** aligned with ongoing European procedures, as well as in harmony with Action Plan 1.

2. Based on the results of the Open Science Recognition Award and the related trainings (Pilots 2, 3, 4), **it is recommended that Open Science and Citizen Science activities are handled as focus areas of CHARM-EU's activities linked with reforming Research Assessment.**

#### 4.2.2 Fostering Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

3. Based on the discussions linked with Charting current equality data collection practices in CHARM-EU institutions (Pilot 1), **it is recommended that a system of monitoring changes in the practices linked with Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity at CHARM-EU member universities is developed for the Alliance.**
4. On the same basis and in harmony with the related Action Plan growing out of the TORCH project, **it is recommended that the research & innovation field is included in CHARM-EU's principles on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** that have been mainly focused on the educational mission of higher education institutions so far.

#### 4.2.3 Championing Open Science

5. Based on the positive results of the Pilots linked with Open Science (Pilots 2, 3, 4), **it is recommended that such activities are supported and incentivised on Alliance-level**, using good practices of the member universities on the one hand, creating transferable solutions and methods that can be applied on member universities' level on the other.
6. On the same basis, **it is recommended that the Open Science mindset is mainstreamed at an early stage amongst students using the solutions of the Alliance.**

#### 4.2.4 Promoting Inter/Transdisciplinary Research Driven by Societal Challenges

7. Based on the experiences emerging from research support activities in and beyond the TORCH project in the past years (mainly Pilots 5 and 6, also Pilots 2, 3, 4, 7, and institutions' efforts in supporting joint research), **it is recommended that joint alliance-level inter- and transdisciplinary research support is empowered first and foremost by connecting related support units, but possibly by developing an alliance-level research support unit**, as also planned in Action Plan 3.
8. At the same time, based on the same experiences, **it is recommended that CHARM-EU mainstreams capacity building for researchers by providing and developing training materials on, e.g., how to become a PI, public engagement skills etc., also utilising the opportunities in its educational projects.**

#### 4.2.5 Intensifying R&I Cooperation between Universities

9. Based on the success of networking activities organised in the alliance (mainly Pilots 6 and 7), **it is recommended that interinstitutional collaboration is supported by connecting relevant units, scanning proposals, organising seminars and workshops for matchmaking and**

**networking of researchers, connecting existing local hubs, organising staff exchange between alliance members.**

10. Based on the results of the joint work of respective units (e.g., Pilot 1, 3, 4, 7), it is **recommended that a strategic connection between TORCH working groups and the respective work packages of CHARM-EU's project CHARM-EIGHT is established** focusing on, e.g., embedding EDI in research in CHARM-EU Governance (CHARM-EIGHT WP1); including Open Science and Citizen Science in the professional development activities of the Alliance (CHARM-EIGHT WP 11); utilizing ideas growing out of TORCH Pilot 7 in the collaboration with Non-Academic Partnerships (CHARM-EIGHT WP15).

## 5. OVERVIEW OF THE PILOT YEAR

Based on Pilots' progress reports, the below table shows together the main events and dates of the Pilot year.

Pilot title & no.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MANAGEMENT						1				2		3
EDI (1)		4										
OPEN SCIENCE												
<i>OS Toolbox (2)</i>	Pilot Plans Completed	5					6	Action Plans Completed	7	8		
<i>CS Training (3)</i>											9	
<i>OS Training (4)</i>						10					11	
RES. SUPPORT (5)							12				13	
COLLABORATION												
<i>R&amp;I Days (6)</i>									14			
<i>TTOs Netw. (7)</i>					15 16, 17							

**Figure 2.** Important events and dates of the Pilot year.

- 30th June: Planning sessions at the Budapest meeting of Research Support Units
- 24–25th October: 3rd TORCH Internal Forum at ELTE, Budapest (hybrid)
- 30th November–1st December: TORCH Final event with European University Alliances, Brussels
- February–May: equality data questionnaire filled by members with a deadline end of May
- February–April: survey on good practices of Open Science Rewards and Recognition
- 17th July: CHARM-EU Open Science Recognition Award call announced
- 15th September: CHARM-EU Open Science Recognition Award submission deadline
- 13th October: CHARM-EU Open Science Recognition Award results announced
- 6–8th November: Citizen Science Training at the University of Barcelona
- 9 June: 1st Open Science Day (online)
- 26 October: 2nd Open Science Day at ELTE, Budapest (hybrid)
- 29–30th June: Budapest meeting of Research Support Offices
- 16th October–15th November: Guide of Experts dissemination test phase
- 29–30 October: TORCH R&I Days at UB, Barcelona (physical)
- 11th May: First online meeting of TTOs
- 5th June: Second online meeting of TTOs
- 24–26th May: ASTP Conference in Estonia

## ANNEX I: PILOT FINAL REPORT TEMPLATE

The Pilot Final Report Template was used to report on the final stage of pilots. Sections included in addition to the ones used in the progress reports (see D9.3, Annex I) are marked green.

<b>Title of the pilot project</b> ( <i>the official one from the Pilot Plan, D9.1</i> )	
<b>Period</b> ( <i>please change if the work started later or you would like to divide differently</i> )	<b>1st February–31<sup>st</sup> October 2023</b>
<b>Activities during the period</b> ( <i>please provide a list of central actions</i> )	
<b>Please select one option about Pilot status</b> ( <i>please feel free to add an explanation, particularly to points 1-2</i> )	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Pilot is finished and cannot be continued (e.g., a proposal was prepared for a particular call that ended; one stage of a longer procedure is closed etc.).</li> <li>2) The Pilot is finished but the very same activity can be continued the same way in case we decide to do so.</li> <li>3) The Pilot is not finished, is in-progress.</li> <li>4) The Pilot is pending (not finished due to a barrier that is to be solved) – please detail under 'Barriers'.</li> </ol>
<b>Number of meetings during the period</b> ( <i>please provide dates and only the main subjects discussed at the meeting</i> )	
<b>Participants</b> ( <i>who participated in the planning, implementation, programme, etc.</i> )	
<b>Feedback – Please collect brief written feedback from internal participants in a format suitable to your pilot</b> ( <i>add it here or in a separate document, 2-3 sentences per participant are absolutely sufficient</i> )	
<b>External Stakeholders – Was there any external stakeholder involved in this period?</b> ( <i>Please name, if any.</i> )	
<b>Feedback – Please add feedback from external stakeholders</b> ( <i>If possible, please collect in written format, but a summary of a verbally expressed opinion is also perfect</i> )	
<b>Deliverables</b> ( <i>results actually achieved so far</i> )	



<p><b>Any milestone that could not be achieved, why?</b> <i>(particularly those that were listed in D9.1 and are delayed)</i></p>	
<p><b>Barriers detected and mitigation actions applied?</b> <i>(Please be rather <u>detailed</u> here, this is also the element to be used for WP8 feedback)</i></p>	
<p><b>Barriers handled – were there problems that could be solved during the Pilot? How?</b></p>	
<p><b>Success, elements of benefit – please list most important positive elements briefly (both for CHARM and for the partners)</b></p>	
<p><b>Planned next steps</b> <i>(ca. next 3 months, until next reporting period)</i> <i>If you planned to write something here, please add that to the new point on 'Pilot status' above.</i></p>	
<p><b>Any other comments</b></p>	

## ANNEX II: OPEN SCIENCE REWARDS AND RECOGNITION TOOLBOX DETAILED REPORT FROM D9.3

Here sections of D9.3 Progress Report on In-Progress Pilots relevant to the Open Science Rewards and Recognition Toolbox (Pilot 2) are included.

### [D9.3] IN-PROGRESS PILOTS

[...]

#### 3.1 Open Science Rewards and Recognition Toolbox (Pilot 2)

The long-term goal of the CHARM-EU Alliance is to design for itself a comprehensive toolkit of Open Science Rewards and Recognition in order to recognise the efforts of member universities' staff members. The Pilot designed to contribute to this Toolkit consisted of the establishment of an Open Science Recognition Award that is planned to be announced annually from 2023 onwards.

##### 3.1.1 Preparation: Planning the Toolbox

The Open Science Rewards and Recognition Toolbox is planned to be a set of solutions, methods, and detailed process descriptions that CHARM-EU member universities have already been applying (or are planning to introduce) to recognise the efforts and achievements of staff members in the field of Open Science. The Toolbox can be created in the form of an open handbook that might be shared at the CHARM-EU website in an open and transferable manner (following the practice of the CHARM-EU Toolkit<sup>29</sup>).

The first, preliminary phase of the pilot, thus, consisted of a survey to collect good practices regarding Open Science rewards and recognition systems at alliance partners. These collected examples will be transformed into the Toolbox of Open Science Rewards and Recognition to be applied on Alliance level later on. Institutions submitted good practices of recognition that have a particular focus on open science activities of university staff members. [...]

##### 3.1.2 Pilot Progress

In the **first period (February–April 2023)** the pilot working group conducted a survey of good practices on Open Science rewards and recognition (see 3.1.1 above).

In the **second period (May–July 2023)** the collected good practices were checked and a type of recognition award was selected to be piloted in 2023. A call was formulated (see [D9.3] Annex III), announced through the CHARM-EU website and social media forums, CHARM-EU newsletters, member universities website and internal communication channels. The working group paid attention to the call being announced before the summer holidays and thus allowing enough time for submission (deadline was 15<sup>th</sup> September).

Group members discussed the options of the prize amongst themselves and also with TORCH project management. Considering the fact that long-term financial support of a prize cannot be guaranteed at this point, while it is of central importance that an annual award is created, the team decided to announce that the prize will be a staff mobility trip to one of the CHARM-EU member universities. TORCH partners all agreed on receiving one academic from another partner providing professional programme related to Open Science if their university is selected by the winner. Universities also agreed on financing the trip in case the winner comes from their university. Åbo Akademi University, Hochschule Ruhr West and Würzburg University also joined the initiative as new partners of the CHARM-EU Alliance.

<sup>29</sup> See <https://charm-eu.eu/toolkit>

In the **third phase (September–October 2023)** a jury was organised to choose the winner. The winner was selected early October 2023. The winner and all participants were notified about the results, and the organisation of the trip for the winner has started by the affected universities.

The winner of the first CHARM-EU Open Science Award was Dr. Saskia Stevens from UU's Department of Ancient History and Classical Civilization. She is scientific director of the research project *Constructing the Limes*<sup>30</sup> which investigates border systems from the Roman era until today demonstrating an outstanding societal impact on local community by involving them in Citizen Science. UB has been selected as destination of her study trip.

[...]

### 3.1.3 Barriers Detected

The main barrier that was clear already in the beginning of the Pilot year was that the given timeframe would not be enough to build a full Toolbox of Open Science Rewards and Recognition but only to pilot one element instead. At the same time, the survey conducted in the beginning of the piloting process provides a firm background of the creation of the Toolbox following the Pilot year, based on the further plans and decisions of CHARM-EU coordinating bodies.

Furthermore, the trainings on Open Science and Citizen Science (Pilots 3 and 4) and their broader application at CHARM-EU universities, as well as a comprehensive Research Assessment Strategy of CHARM-EU (Action Plan 1) are also required to introduce broader practices of Open Science Rewards and Recognition.

The lack of financial guarantees in the long-term R&I collaboration of the Alliance made it impossible to commit to an annual prize that should be financed by one of the institutions. As a mitigation action, staff mobility was chosen as a prize as the financing of this is financially well grounded and its nature also reflects the principles and philosophy of Open Science.

### 3.1.4 List of Results

- 1) A **successful Open Science Recognition Award** was established and awarded on one occasion through a procedure from call publication to the announcement of the winner (the creation of the Toolkit for Open Science Rewards and Recognition is in progress).
- 2) **The suggestions of the jury members** were collected for the future, most importantly:
  - Need for more kinds of awards (PhD, early career, all career prize; project or career; individual/team applications).
  - Need to recognize some applicants who do not receive an award.
  - Object of evaluation (intention, commitment, attitude, documented outputs, impact, potential benefits) to be more clearly formulated.
- 3) **Lessons learned** to be incorporated not only in next years' Open Science awards but also in the broader toolbox of Open Science Rewards and Recognition.

## [D9.3] 4. CONTINUATION OF IN-PROGRESS PILOTS

[...]

### 4.1 Open Science Rewards and Recognition Toolbox

In terms of Open Science rewards and recognition, the action carried out in 2023 was a single **Open Science recognition award**. The award procedure reached the point of the announcement of results, left is the arrangement and realisation of the staff mobility that constitutes the prize of the winner. Lessons learned from this year's procedure (e.g., in terms of opening the application for groups) are discussed and the procedure of forthcoming calls will be adjusted accordingly.

<sup>30</sup> See <https://c-limes.nl/?lang=en>

At the same time, further elements of the Alliance-level **Rewards and Recognition Toolbox** can be developed based on collected good practices. This can happen through a website that collects and interactively displays in a searchable format the various solutions applied by CHARM-EU member universities currently and that can be applied by other members or by other universities not part of the CHARM-EU Alliance (the CHARM-EU Toolkit can be the model for this website). Transferable elements must be stressed in this collection, and links to future trainings, workshops, events, etc. of the members related to Open Science can also be displayed here.

The main requirements of the joint Open Science activities of CHARM-EU are the broadened awareness-raising, training and incentivisation in terms of Open Science and Citizen Science activities. This includes skills development on diverse levels using the results of the **Open Science and Citizen Science trainings** (see D9.4 and D9.5 of the current project in preparation at the time of the submission of the present deliverable), alliance-level incentives to be engaged in Open Science activities (incentives created by the Alliance *or* adapted by it from one of the member universities) that can also be applied in various ways by the member institutions, as well as the strategic handling of Open Science Rewards and Recognition that will be an important element of the CHARM-AMRA (Alliance Manifesto on Research Assessment – see D9.2, Action Plan 1).

## ANNEX III: PROGRAMME OF THE CITIZEN SCIENCE TRAINING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

### Formació en Ciència Ciutadana

#### Primer nivell i segon nivell de formació

6 de novembre de 2023

9:30 a 13:30 hores

Aula Magna de l'Edifici Històric de la Universitat de Barcelona

Gran Via de les Corts Catalanes, 585. 08007 Barcelona

9:30h **Benvinguda institucional**

9:40h **Presentació de la formació**

**Amb la participació de:** JORDI GARCIA, Vicerector de Recerca de la Universitat de Barcelona; IGNASI LABASTIDA, Delegat del Rector per a la Ciència Oberta de la Universitat de Barcelona; JOSEP PERELLÓ, pilot dels projectes *TORCH*, *Citizen Science NOW* i *SENSE*. a la Universitat de Barcelona; JAUME PUIGPINÓS, Àrea d'internacionalització de la Taula del Tercer Sector de Catalunya.

10:00h **Taula rodona. Viure un projecte de Ciència Ciutadana en primera persona**

**Amb la participació de:** ORIOL UVIEDO, Alumni UB i impulsor de *Surfing for Science*; GENÍS PASCUAL, coordinador de *Padrins del Riu* i participant de *Riu-Net*; ANDREA ESTELLER, educador a Fundació Comtal i participant de *Cròniques de la calor*; LAURA CERARDI, professora de l'Escola Kostka i participant d'*iChange*; ASSUMPTA MATEU, coinvestigadora del projecte *CoActuem per la Salut Mental*.  
**Modera:** CRISTINA SÁEZ, periodista.

11:00h **Café i roda de projectes de Ciència Ciutadana al Claustre de l'Edifici Històric**

**Amb la participació de:** ANNA SANCHEZ-VIDAL, *Surfing for Science*; NÚRIA BONADA i PAU FORTUÑO, *Riu-Net*; CARMEL LLASAT i MONTSE LLASAT, *iChange*; MÒNICA MARTÍNEZ, *Plasticøpyr*; MARIA GRAU, *Every Walk You Take*; FERRAN LARROYA, *BeePath*; ISABELL BONHORE, *Cròniques de la calor*; BÀRBARA MITATS, *CoActuem per la Salut Mental*; ANA M. NOVELLA i MARTA SABARIEGO, *Childcity*.

12:20h **Taula rodona. Recerca, participació i compromís social**

**Amb la participació de:** XAVIER LOPEZ ARNABAT, Fundació Solidaritat UB; BÀRBARA MITATS, Federació de Salut Mental de Catalunya; JESÚS DELGADO, Taula d'Entitats del Tercer Sector de Catalunya; TATIANA FERNÁNDEZ, Àrea d'Estratègia Econòmica de la Generalitat de Catalunya; ARANTXA ARNAIZ, Anthesis Lavola – Consultoria en Sostenibilitat. **Modera:** CRISTINA SÁEZ, periodista.

13:20h **Tancament / Cloenda**

**Amb la participació de:** IGNASI LABASTIDA, Delegat del Rector per a la Ciència Oberta de la Universitat de Barcelona; JESÚS DELGADO, Vicepresident de la Taula d'Entitats del Tercer Sector de Catalunya.

13:30h **Final**

## Formació en Ciència Ciutadana

### Segon nivell de formació

**7 de novembre de 2023**

**10:00 a 13:00 hores**

**Auditori Centre Cívic Ateneu Fort Pienc**

Plaça Fort Pienc, 4, 08013 Barcelona

**10:00h Benvinguda informal**

**10:10h Mòdul 1. Cocreació**

JOSEP PERELLÓ, Universitat de Barcelona.

JAUME PUIGPINÓS, Taula del Tercer Sector de Catalunya.

**10:30h Mòdul 2. Comunitats**

**Riu-Net.** PAU FORTUÑO, Grup de Recerca Freshwater Ecology, Hydrology and Management, Universitat de Barcelona; **Every Walk You Take.** MARIA GRAU, Grup de Recerca en Epidemiologia, Prevenció i Control de Malalties Transmissibles, Universitat de Barcelona; **Plasticøpyr.** MÓNICA MARTÍNEZ, Centre de Disseny i Optimització de Processos i Materials, Universitat de Barcelona.  
**Perspectives d'un representant del Tercer Sector**

**11:15h Pausa**

**11:45h Mòdul 3. Eines i mètodes**

**Riu-Net.** NÚRIA BONADA, Grup de Recerca Freshwater Ecology, Hydrology and Management, Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat de Barcelona; **Cròniques de la calor.** ISABELLE BONHOURE, Grup de Recerca OpenSystems, Universitat de Barcelona; **Plasticøpyr.** MÓNICA MARTÍNEZ, Centre de Disseny i Optimització de Processos i Materials, Universitat de Barcelona.  
**Perspectives d'un representant del Tercer Sector**

**12:30h Discussió i debat**

Posada en comú

**13:00h Final**

## Formació en Ciència Ciutadana

### Segon nivell de formació

**8 de novembre de 2023**

**10:00 a 13:00 hores**

**Auditori Centre Cívic Ateneu Fort Pienc**

Plaça Fort Pienc, 4, 08013 Barcelona

**10:00h Benjunga informal**

**10:10h Mòdul 4. Dades**

**BeePath.** FERRAN LARROYA, Grup de Recerca OpenSystems, Universitat de Barcelona; **iChange.** MONTSE LLASAT, Grup d'Anàlisi de Situacions Meteorològiques Adverses, Universitat de Barcelona; **Surfing for Science.** ANNA SANCHEZ-VIDAL, Grup de Recerca Consolidat en Geociències Marines, Universitat de Barcelona.  
**Perspectives d'un representant del Tercer Sector**

**10:40h Mòdul 5. Ètica i inclusió**

**BeePath.** FERRAN LARROYA, Grup de Recerca OpenSystems, Universitat de Barcelona; **Cròniques de la calor.** ISABELLE BONHOURS, Grup de Recerca OpenSystems, Universitat de Barcelona; **CoActuem per la Salut Mental.** Persona co-investigadora.  
**Perspectives d'un representant del Tercer Sector**

**11:10h Pausa**

**11:30h Mòdul 6. Acció**

**Surfing for Science.** ANNA SANCHEZ-VIDAL, Grup de Recerca Consolidat en Geociències Marines, Universitat de Barcelona; **iChange.** MONTSE LLASAT, Grup d'Anàlisi de Situacions Meteorològiques Adverses, Universitat de Barcelona; **IMCITY.** ANA M. NOVELLA, Grup de Recerca en Educació Moral, Universitat de Barcelona.  
**Perspectives d'un representant del Tercer Sector**

**12:00h Discussió, debat i tancament de la formació**

**Posada en comú de prioritats i identificació d'oportunitats d'enxarxament. Moderen:** JAUME PUIGPINÓS, Taula del Tercer Sector de Catalunya i JOSEP PERELLÓ, Universitat de Barcelona.

**13:00h Final**

## ANNEX IV: REPORT ON OPEN SCIENCE TRAINING

Here sections of D9.4 Open Science Training are included.

### [D9.4] 2. METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1. Planning

First of all, we set the aim of the trainings. The primary objectives of these trainings were set to enhance the participants' understanding of Open Science principles and practices, provide them with practical tools and strategies for implementing Open Science in their research, and foster a sense of community and collaboration among alliance members.

In our pilot plan, we described that for the success of the pilot, we would organise two Open Science training events for the alliance members during the time allocated for the pilot. The target audience was set to be the researchers, staff members of the universities, including doctoral students. Each pilot was planned to be one-day long. We planned the first training to be online and the second one to be hybrid (online and in-person).

#### 2.2. Preparations

##### 2.2.1. Planning and Coordination

Extensive planning and coordination were undertaken to ensure the success of both the online and offline training sessions. This involved forming a dedicated pilot work-group, setting up communication channels, and designing a comprehensive schedule of activities. The online training was hosted on a virtual platform, while the offline training took place at a physical location, Budapest, Hungary, within ELTE's premises, linked with the Third Internal Forum of the TORCH project, enabling project members from CHARM-EU universities to participate in the training in person what would not have been financially feasible in case of another date.

[...]

##### 2.2.2. Programme development

To meet the aims of the pilot, tailored programmes were developed for both the online and offline trainings. We determined that the programmes should cover themes from the main pillars of open science such as open data sharing, collaborative research tools, reproducibility, and ethical considerations in Open Science. The content was curated to align with the participants' prior knowledge and interests.

This selection of content was in accordance with the findings of the Open Science Survey (D6.1). [...]

##### 2.2.3. Speaker selection

We aimed to find speakers, experts, and practitioners in the field of Open Science to lead the training sessions. It was a priority that

- their expertise and experience should offer valuable insights and practical guidance to the participants;
- they represent different institutions of the CHARM-EU Alliance;
- they represent different units, fields that are involved in Open Science activities;
- diversity of presenters accords with RRI principles.

##### 2.2.4. Participant recruitment

A comprehensive recruitment process was carried out via Alliance-level and institutional-level communication channels to ensure that participants from all member institutions of the university alliance were given the



opportunity to attend the trainings. We aimed for a diverse and inclusive representation from various research disciplines and career stages. [...]

### 2.2.5. Logistics

Logistic arrangements for both the online and offline training were planned by the workgroup. This included providing technical support for the online training, workshop accessories and catering for the in-person training and ensuring the availability of necessary resources such as audio-visual equipment.

### 2.2.6. Outreach and promotion

Promotion and outreach strategies were employed to inform alliance members about the training opportunities. This involved utilizing communication channels of the Alliance as well as those of the partner universities, and engaging in direct outreach to individuals, institutes and doctoral schools. We advertised the events on the CHARM-EU website both via articles [...] and with specific webpages dedicated to the events [...]. CHARM-EU's social media channels (such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn) were also used to further promote the event (see Table 2), as well as institutional newsletters, the CHARM-EU newsletter, and internal mailing lists. TORCH PMs and WP11 communication staff helped in coordinating dissemination.

Links to articles and posts advertising the CHARM-EU Open Science Days

Date / Channel	Articles	Twitter	LinkedIn	Facebook	Instagram
2023.05.19.	<a href="#">1<sup>st</sup> Open Science Day</a>	<a href="#">Twitter post n.1</a>	<a href="#">LinkedIn post n.1</a>	<a href="#">Facebook post n.1 (2023.05.31.)</a>	<a href="#">Instagram post n.1 (2023.05.31.)</a>
2023.06.07.		<a href="#">Twitter post n.2</a>	<a href="#">LinkedIn post n.2</a>		
2023.09.26.	<a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> Open Science Day</a>	<a href="#">Twitter post n.3</a>		<a href="#">Facebook post n.2</a>	<a href="#">Instagram post n.2</a>
2023.10.18.		<a href="#">Twitter post n.4</a>	<a href="#">LinkedIn post n.3</a>	<a href="#">Facebook post n.3</a>	
2023.10.26.		<a href="#">Twitter tread</a>			
2023.11.03.		<a href="#">Twitter post n.6</a>	<a href="#">LinkedIn post n.4</a>	<a href="#">Facebook post n.4</a>	<a href="#">Instagram post n.3</a>

[...]

Summary Table of the Two Open Science Trainings

	1 <sup>st</sup> Open Science Training	2 <sup>nd</sup> Open Science Training
Organiser	ELTE, TCD	ELTE
Dates	9 June, 2023	26 Oct, 2023
Location	Online	ELTE & Online
Website	<a href="https://www.charm-eu.eu/charm-eu-open-science-day-programme">https://www.charm-eu.eu/charm-eu-open-science-day-programme</a>	<a href="https://www.charm-eu.eu/second-charm-eu-open-science-day-0">https://www.charm-eu.eu/second-charm-eu-open-science-day-0</a>

Number of presenters	8	6
Presenting institutions	ELTE, TCD, UB	ELTE, TCD, UM, UU
Number of participants	77 (online)	70 (30 online and 40 in person)
Post Communication		<a href="https://www.charm-eu.eu/2nd-charm-eu-open-science-day-and-3rd-torch-internal-forum-held-successfully">https://www.charm-eu.eu/2nd-charm-eu-open-science-day-and-3rd-torch-internal-forum-held-successfully</a> <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7123580987711578112/?actorCompanyId=70870776">https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7123580987711578112/?actorCompanyId=70870776</a>

[...]

#### 4. LESSONS LEARNED

[...]

##### 4.4. Barriers

Throughout the pilot we identified a number of barriers that future Open Science training organisers in the CHARM-EU alliance could tackle. Organizing Open Science training programs, whether in-person or online, for participants from seven different universities poses several challenges. Firstly, coordinating schedules across multiple institutions can be a significant barrier in the case of in-person training. Aligning the availability of trainers, participants, and venue logistics can become a complex task, leading to potential scheduling conflicts and difficulties in finding suitable time slots that accommodate everyone involved.

On the other hand, online training introduces its own set of challenges. Technological disparities among universities may impede seamless virtual collaboration. Maintaining participant engagement and interaction in an online setting also requires careful planning to overcome potential distractions and ensure active participation. Balancing these factors is crucial for the success of Open Science training programs with diverse and geographically dispersed participants.

## ANNEX V: JOINT SUPPORT STRATEGY FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS DETAILED REPORT FROM D9.3

Here sections of D9.3 Progress Report on In-Progress Pilots relevant to the Joint Support Strategy for Research proposals (Pilot 5) are included.

### [D9.3] IN-PROGRESS PILOTS

[...]

#### 3.2 Joint Support Strategy for Research Proposals (Pilot 5)

A central objective of the CHARM-EU Alliance is to foster multidisciplinary, challenge-driven research collaboration among the member institutions' academic staff. This requires a comprehensive joint structure of research support that was piloted in 2023 through a series of actions. The Pilot mainly worked at three different levels:

1. Providing support to the six research groups developing the TORCH Research Challenges, targeting diverse European funding calls.
2. Developing a research support website.
3. Collecting good practices and learnings to shape Action Plan 3 (Joint Support Strategy for Research Projects).

##### 3.2.1 Preparation

In the first period, the working group was formed, and the work on creating a jointly designed and operated research support structure was started. At group meetings, experiences of the procedures carried out at the universities supporting the research groups were shared, and the joint needs of the Alliance formulated. The most important requirements to make joint research support more efficient and expedite were:

- Enabling seamless communication between research support units: working towards a joint structure of research support.
- Strengthening the inter- and transdisciplinary approach in supporting research projects (central links connecting disciplinary/faculty support units, involving external stakeholders).
- Creating a joint system where researchers' data can be registered and stored with the purpose of networking, partner search, etc. The workplan approved at this stage to develop Pilot 5 can be found in [D9.3] Annex IV.

#### Supporting research projects

The activities linked with this pilot started earlier than the Pilot year as far as the discussions on adopting and supporting research proposals by member universities were carried out as early as in the Summer of 2022. In the Fall of 2022, each university adopted one research project from the six that were generated in WP4 Common Science Agenda,<sup>31</sup> and the working group considered the possibility of jointly developing the sixth topic (SDG10-Challenge 2 'Designing Better Universities to Fight Against Inequalities') and submitting it to a European call jointly.

The selection of the research proposals was based, firstly, on the principle of CHARM-EU to ground its activities on the UN SDGs. Secondly, the CHARM-EU cross-cutting core value of transdisciplinarity, and the core values of inclusivity and social responsibility were also considered as factors in the decisions on selecting our topics. Thirdly, some thematic areas already involved in the work of the Alliance, such as, e.g., the field of Water in the master's programme Global Challenges for Sustainability (through related UN SDGs) also played an important role in the procedure. [...]

<sup>31</sup> See D4.2 - Common Science Agenda Challenge List, available at <https://www.charm-eu.eu/sites/default/files/2022-01/D4.2%20-%20Common%20Science%20Agenda%20Challenge%20List.pdf>

TORCH Research Challenges				
	UB	SDG3-C1	ACTIVE: Adult Child and Teenage participation In physical actiVity across Europe	Proposal dropped during preparation Target: Horizon Europe
	UM	SDG3-C2	Prevention and preparedness of negative effects of climate change on vector-borne infectious diseases	Proposal dropped during preparation Target: Horizon Europe
	TCD	SDG10-C1	Coping with digitalization and the transformation of the world of work as a new source of inequalities	<b>Proposal submitted. Not granted.</b> Target: Horizon Europe
	Alliance	SDG10-C2	Designing better universities to fight against inequalities	Proposal dropped during preparation Target: MSCA (HE) Staff Exchanges
	ELTE	SDG13-C1	Preventive Water Sustainable Management of Freshwater resources within a global change frameset (PWSM)	<b>Proposal submitted. Granted.</b> Target: Water4All
	UU	SDG13-C2	Mapping Risks, Joining Funds, Taking Actions – Fostering Nature-based Solutions to Mitigate Climate-related Hazards	Proposal in preparation Target: MSCA (HE) Doctoral Networks

TORCH Research Challenges and adopting university.

### Developing a research support website

The working group decided to develop a set of online tools that could contribute to prompt the creation of new multidisciplinary scientific networks across the Alliance, as well as to facilitate matchmaking for European research projects proposals. In addition, all partners' institutional research support units were mapped.

#### 3.2.2 Pilot Progress

Due to the close deadline of a highly suitable call (Water4All<sup>32</sup>) the first research proposal was submitted as early as November 2022 under the title Climate Extremes buffering through groundwater flow-based Managed Aquifer Recharge and Public Engagement (Climex-PE) supported by ELTE, planned as a cooperation of ELTE, UB, TCD and UU. Experiences of this proposal preparation procedure were already incorporated when the group drafted the Pilot Plans (D9.1) in early 2023. Systematic and joint thinking and planning started in January 2023.

A second project proposal was submitted (led by TCD; Horizon Europe call, not granted), and another one is under preparation at the moment this report is being drafted (led by UU; MSCA Doctoral Networks) [...]

The **directory of institutional research support units** is available for researchers across the member institutions.<sup>33</sup> A Workshop for research support offices was also organized and held in Budapest (June 29–30; for the Program, see [D9.3] Annex V).

The **CHARM-EU Guide of Experts**<sup>34</sup> (Figure 3) is a directory of researchers that can be queried through a searching tool, and is available to the whole academic community of the CHARM-EU universities, its purpose being threefold:

- Academic staff and researchers would be able to find (and will be findable by) potential partners to join European and national research projects, based on their expertise and interests.
- The CHARM-EU staff developing the Alliance's teaching programmes would be able to find suitable teachers/researchers that could join the diverse initiatives: Masters in Global Challenges for Sustainability, and any other future programme (joint PhD programmes; doctoral and staff exchanges networks, microcredentials, etc.).
- The research support offices in our universities, in charge of managing European research proposals and projects, would be able to find researchers to complete new consortia, based on their expertise and interests.

<sup>32</sup> See <https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2022-joint-transnational-call>

<sup>33</sup> See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/contact-points>

<sup>34</sup> See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch/researcher-finder>

The entry form requests information mainly regarding:

- Academic and professional data: email address, university, faculty, department, academic position, researcher ID profiles, institutional and personal webpages.
- Research interests and background: field of science, keywords describing interests, research connections with UN SDGs.
- Experience in European/national research projects.
- Teaching expertise and experience: keywords describing interests, teaching practices.
- Desired level of involvement in potential activities developed within CHARM-EU (both in teaching and research).

The Guide of Experts only publicly displays academics' data about their professional details, research expertise and interests, and teaching interests (keywords), following RGPD's Article 5.1.c ('data minimization'). Any information collected about involvement in CHARM-EU Activities, and detailed teaching experience is not displayed.

The Guide of Experts was tested in a three-step procedure. First, its content was discussed with the CHARM-EU Executive Board, that expressed a strong need to collect a broader scale of aspects in the database to serve all purposes of the Alliance (i.e. include participants' teaching information and desired potential involvement in CHARM-EU activities). It was agreed that the whole academic community of the Alliance will not be contacted to enter the database within this Pilot. Instead, a limited dissemination campaign would be carried out at this stage, leaving for the CHARM-EU governing the bodies the design and arrangement of a future broader campaign that would reach the Alliance's entire academic community.

Second, a short survey was distributed among a reduced number of researchers (34 responses were collected out of 65 contacts made), in order to improve its design. The third step, once the tool had been implemented and made publicly available in the TORCH webpage, involved inviting a larger number of academics to enter their research profiles. [...]

The **TORCH Collaboration Networks apps**<sup>35</sup> (Figure 4) is an interactive tool based on bibliographic analysis of current authorship networks. This application allows to obtain a list of publications indexed in OpenAlex database with their bibliometric information, statistics of the journals in which they have been published, and the network of collaborations between the authors.

The group was involved in creating the Action Plan on a Joint Virtual Research Support Office (see D9.2 Action Plans, Action Plan 3). Participants of the Pilot's coordination team drafted the Action Plan with the following main two objectives:

- 1) Creating a Network of Research Support Offices (NRSO) that would empower our institutional offices as driving forces and a bridge between different actors involved in R&I activities whose participation is crucial to further develop the CHARM-EU RRI dimension.
- 2) Exploring the possibility of creating a Joint Virtual Research Support Office (JVRSO) as an evolution of the previous Network. This Office, based on the experience of the Network, would make progress and systematise operational functioning (see deliverable D9.2). [...]

### 3.2.3 Barriers Detected

Partners' discussion to agree on **Action Plan 3** required several iterations and involvement of universities' leadership and diverse units. The team had to handle here a very sensitive situation since the clearly declared necessity of creating a collaborative joint unit and the lack of targeted Alliance-level R&I funding from 2024 onwards clashed in various ways at the member universities of CHARM-EU (not only the TORCH partners but the nine institutions).

<sup>35</sup> See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/collaboration-networks-app>

At the same time, since the institutional support of the research project proposals was not supported financially by the TORCH project, the type and intensity of local support provided to the different research projects and the number of personnel assigned to related tasks remained significantly diverse among the universities throughout the pilot year. [...]

### 3.2.4 List of Results

Based on the work of the Pilot Group, factual results stemming in the pilot can be summed up here:

- **Action Plan 3**, clearly reflecting the needs tackled during the piloting period, fed by Research Challenges final reports (mutual learning and partners' learning).
- **3 research proposals** submitted to different European funding calls: a) W4A call (led by ELTE), research proposal submitted and granted. b) HE call (led by TCD), research proposal submitted and not granted. c) MSCA-DN (led by UU), proposal under preparation.
- **Research support website**: a) Directory of research support units. b) CHARM-EU Guide of Experts. c) Collaboration Networks apps.
- **Poster** to be presented at the Science with and for Society in European Universities Alliances: Cross-Alliances Forum 2023.<sup>36</sup>

### [D9.3] 4. CONTINUATION OF IN-PROGRESS PILOTS

[...]

#### 4.2 Joint Support Strategy for Research Proposals

This pilot action proved to be the most challenging that required highest ambition and, at the same time, most self-critique from all participants. The Alliance agreed on creating an **Action Plan** (see D9.2, section 3.1, AP3) on the creation of the **Network of Research Support Offices** with a clear focus on multi- and transdisciplinarity and, later on, exploring the setting-up of a **CHARM-EU Joint Virtual Research Support Office** that inherited the ambition of this Pilot and is meant to take significant steps in the direction of eliminating the shortcomings the group found during its self-critical testing. The Action Plan systematically builds up a structure that the piloting group identified as necessary for an Alliance-level support structure for research projects, creating elements that are currently missing from the system.

The main requirement in this case is an Alliance-level effort to harmonise research support activities and the systematic involvement of Research Support Offices in these joint efforts. At the same time, opportunities offered by CHARM-EU (starting with the **Guide of Experts**, ready to be used) must be disseminated at each partner university. Here the links with WP9 Dissemination and Networking and WP16 and 17 Communication of the CHARM-EIGHT project will also be tackled.

The ongoing **CHARM-EIGHT** project also provides opportunities to link already achieved results with the future work of the Alliance since it supports Networking activities in the framework of WP9 Dissemination and Networking. In that WP, while actual support of proposal writing cannot be provided to research groups, brainstorming sessions, workshops, ideathons, etc. can be organised to provide the background of the inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation of researchers.

At the same time, it must be stressed that the *momentum* created within the TORCH project in terms of the first steps of a common science agenda of the CHARM-EU Alliance cannot be based solely on the CHARM-EIGHT project that is mainly an endeavour with educational focus. The **development and support of research groups formed from Alliance members**, the capacity building of researchers in various fields of RRI using the strengths of the member institutions, and the strategic progression of a CHARM-EU Common Science Agenda can only be carried out in a broader framework. CHARM-EU member universities ensured each other about their commitment to the continuation of the joint achievements and are in continuous discussions about exact possibilities on different levels, including the Strategic Board (the Rectors of the member universities), the Executive Board (CHARM-EU Directors' body) and the various working groups, work packages, knowledge creation teams that are all aware of TORCH results and in many cases involve members who have also been part of the TORCH project.

<sup>36</sup> See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/science-and-society-european-universities-alliances-0>

**ANNEX VI: POSTER OF THE CHARM-EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DAYS**

# MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ON WATER

**A co-creation workshop**  
**30 & 31.10.23**

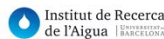
**2023 CHARM-EU R&I DAYS**

**Universitat de Barcelona – Spain**

**#torch**  
**#charmEU**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101017229.



## ANNEX VII: CREATION OF A VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICES' NETWORK DETAILED REPORT FROM D9.3

Here sections of D9.3 Progress Report on In-Progress Pilots relevant to the CoCreation of a Virtual Technology Transfer Offices Network (Pilot 7) are included.

### [D9.3] IN-PROGRESS PILOTS

[...]

### 3.3 Creation of a Virtual Technology Transfer Offices' Network (Pilot 7)

In the innovation domain, one perspective of the TORCH project was to involve partner institutions' Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) in the Alliance's collaboration. One important step towards this involvement was the creation of a network of TTOs created in 2023.

#### 3.3.1 Pilot Progress

In the **first period (February–April 2023)** the main task of the Pilot coordinators was to **identify the TTOs from each partner** that would be the main contact point for this action. In that process, each university conducted internal discussions to identify colleagues with required expertise at the respective units. After that, a **preparatory meeting** was arranged in April to select the speakers, the dates, and the topics of two dedicated future online meetings. After identifying the main contacts for each organisation, UM as coordinator of the Pilot created a virtual sharing space on Sharepoint. Its goal being to bring together all partners' TTOs in order to:

- **Share useful documents & good practices:** A **documents' sharing space** has been created to allow partners to share all documents they consider relevant for the network such as reports, processes, videos, and all other insights and good practices they want to share to foster the collaboration and the efficiency of the network members.
- **Discuss about experiences and get feedback and advice from partners:** In addition to the document sharing space, the Sharepoint is linked to a **Teams conversation** where members can share success stories, failed projects, arrange a future meeting or ask for advice, for instance. This channel allows members to maintain a direct connection within the network.

It was decided that the two online meetings would be arranged in May and June 2023. The objective of these meetings was to discuss several subjects determined in advance and exchange some good practices, documents, experiences and feedback.

In the **second period (May–July 2023)** the online meetings were held with participants from each TORCH member university. [...] The topics of these meetings were:

- **11 May:** creation of spinoff and startup companies supported by university resources; knowledge transfer; engagement program; evaluate research-based inventions and IP transfers;
- **5 June:** *Social innovation; student entrepreneurship; proof of concept.*

Following these 2 meetings, the coordinating team noticed that TTOs' were particularly interested in the subject of "student entrepreneurship". This led to the idea of creating a **directory** (e.g., in the form of a dedicated web page on the CHARM website) where **all the contacts of all the CHARM-EIGHT structures dedicated to support entrepreneur students would be gathered** (e.g., incubators).

To bring this idea further, **discussions were started with the coordinators of the work package on Non-Academic Partnerships (WP15) of the CHARM-EIGHT project** (the Erasmus+ project of the Alliance started in 2023). On the longer run, this directory can be linked with the incubators hub that has to be developed in the framework of this Work Package. This would also ensure seamless continuity of the TORCH project in the direction of student entrepreneurship.



Also, as part of the Pilot, University of Montpellier decided to finance the entry fees for all TTOs part of the Pilot Plan to attend the [ASTP Conference](#) in Estonia between May 24–26, 2023. The objective of this conference was to gather TTOs and other Knowledge transfer professionals all across Europe to discuss about several subjects and exchange some good practices while networking. 6 partners (UM included) attended diverse interventions about Knowledge valorisation, Artificial Intelligence, Social Science in Knowledge transfer and so on. It was the occasion for the TTO representatives to meet each other in person and reinforce the link within the TORCH project while sharing some good practices useful for partners and the TTOs Network durability.

[...]

### 3.3.2 Barriers Detected

It meant a difficulty in the first period to reach the relevant units at each university. This was possible with the engagement of TORCH project managers in several cases. [...]

### 3.3.3 List of Results

- **A team of member universities' TTOs** having joint experience, connected with each other for purposes of knowledge sharing, joint support of relevant proposals, etc.
- **Sharepoint site** as an online space to share documents, process, good practices and have a space to discuss with other TTOs in order to reinforce cooperation between universities.
- **Idea of a directory** for the future to be realised in cooperation with CHARM-EIGHT WP 15.

## [D9.3] 4. CONTINUATION OF IN-PROGRESS PILOTS

[...]

### 4.3 Creation of a Virtual Technology Transfer Offices' Network

While the network of Technology Transfer Offices has been set up, this was only the first step of a longer and widening collaboration of the TTOs, e.g., in terms of knowledge valorisation, jointly organised events, collaboration on various fields such as student entrepreneurship. The main requirement in this case is that the **network of TTOs** shall remain active beyond the TORCH project and keep the momentum created in the past months, broadening the discourse between alliance partners in various directions. This will certainly be supported by TTOs representatives' involvement in various working groups of the CHARM-EIGHT project of the Alliance.

Considering the fact that WP15 of the ongoing CHARM-EIGHT project is responsible for building and managing systematically the **Non-Academic Partnerships of CHARM-EU**, **this group will play an important role** in further developments of the work started in this Pilot and in the TORCH project in general. [...]