

# Good practices guide on involvement of citizens and the impact of the R&I Agenda in schools of the Ulysseus cities and regions

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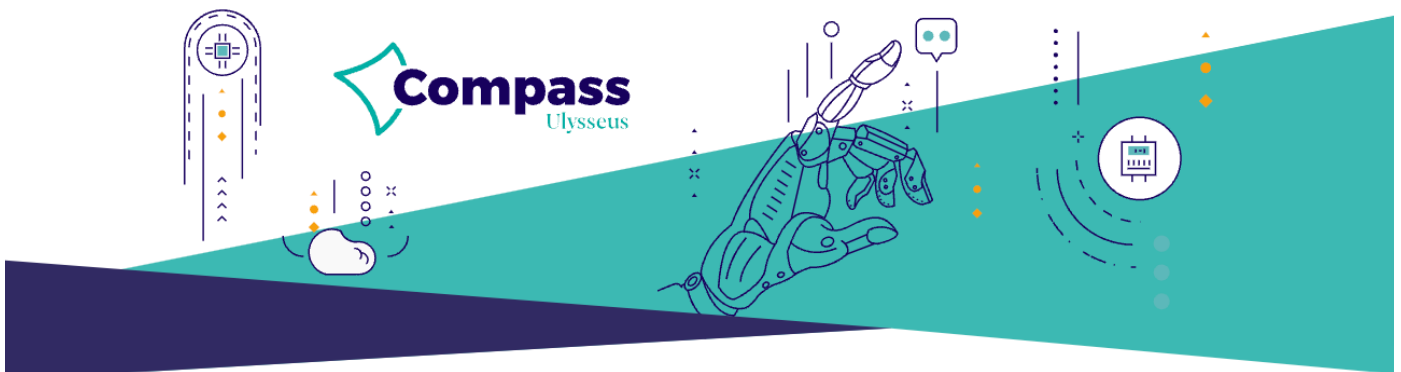
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The COMPASS project is devoted to the realization of the workplan of Ulysseus, the Alliance of European Universities which recently pass to step forward heading to the creation of the European University Ulysseus. Both projects are funded by the action SwafS which, as known, is the acronym for Science with and for Society. Widening the concept of science as synonym of knowledge the same title of this call becomes the primary source of inspiration for the present Guide of good practices on involvement of citizens and the impact of the R&I Agenda in schools.

The guide is a resource aimed at promoting citizen involvement and assessing the impact of Research and Innovation (R&I) agendas within educational settings, specifically schools. It likely provides guidance, strategies, and examples of best practices for engaging citizens in R&I initiatives and evaluating how these initiatives affect schools and educational outcomes. Such a guide would like to emphasize the importance of collaboration between schools, researchers, and community members to foster innovation and address societal challenges. It covers various aspects, including curriculum development, teacher training, student involvement, and community partnerships.

The university stands as a beacon of knowledge exchange and innovation, where the amalgamation of past wisdom and present endeavors molds the contours of our collective future. Yet, the essence of the university transcends mere institutional existence; it thrives on the dynamic interplay between its constituents – both as an academic institution and as a collective of individuals. Much like the symbiotic relationship of cells within an organism, each member, irrespective of their role or function, contributes to the vibrant ecosystem that propels us forward.

In this intricate tapestry of academia, the imperative of citizen engagement emerges as a cornerstone of Research and Innovation (R&I) agendas. Recognizing that the quest for knowledge is inherently intertwined with societal needs and aspirations, we acknowledge the pivotal role of citizens in shaping the trajectory of R&I endeavors. Their diverse perspectives, lived experiences, and intrinsic knowledge of community needs serve as catalysts for innovation, enriching the discourse and ensuring that research outcomes resonate with real-world challenges.

The collaborative initiative of the Ulysseus alliance embodies this ethos, reflecting the pan-European vision of fostering inclusive R&I ecosystems. By uniting Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) across borders and disciplines, the alliance transcends traditional boundaries, offering a platform for diverse voices to converge and co-create solutions that transcend geographical confines.




# 1. INTRODUCTION

Central to this vision is the vital nexus between academia and citizenship – a symbiotic relationship that forms the bedrock of inclusive R&I agendas. Students, as the vanguards of tomorrow's innovations, bridge the gap between theory and practice, infusing academic pursuits with societal relevance. Their active participation in open forums, collaborative projects, and community-driven initiatives fosters a culture of public engagement, where the exchange of ideas transcends ivory towers and resonates with the broader community. Thus, as we navigate the evolving landscape of R&I, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to citizen-centered approaches, where the boundaries between academia and society dissolve, giving rise to a shared vision of innovation for the common good.





A young girl with curly hair, wearing a blue and red plaid shirt and jeans, is smiling and holding a white paper airplane. She is standing in a classroom with a green chalkboard in the background. The image has a teal overlay and large teal arrow graphics pointing up and down.

## 2. EMPOWERING CITIZENS IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

## 2. EMPOWERING CITIZENS IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

In today's rapidly evolving world, the importance of Research and Innovation (R&I) cannot be emphasized enough. It highlights the crucial role that research and innovation play in addressing the challenges, seizing opportunities, and driving progress in various fields such as science, technology, economy, and society. From addressing pressing societal challenges to driving economic growth and fostering sustainable development, R&I plays a pivotal role in shaping our collective future. At the heart of successful R&I endeavors lies the principle of inclusivity and collaboration. While experts and institutions traditionally spearhead research initiatives, the active involvement of citizens is increasingly recognized as indispensable. After all, it is citizens who directly experience the impacts of innovation, and their insights, perspectives, and needs are invaluable in shaping R&I agendas that truly serve society. This guide is more than just a compendium of strategies and recommendations; it testifies our commitment to empowering communities to actively participate in shaping their futures.

Citizen involvement matters because it enriches the R&I process by:

- Bringing diverse perspectives and insights that reflect the needs and aspirations of the broader community.
- Enhancing the relevance and applicability of research outcomes by grounding them in real-world contexts.

## 2. EMPOWERING CITIZENS IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

- Fostering a sense of ownership and trust among stakeholders, thereby increasing the likelihood of successful implementation and uptake.
- Cultivating a culture of lifelong learning and civic engagement, empowering individuals to become active contributors to the knowledge economy.

### 2.1 About the Guide

This guide serves as a roadmap for educators, policymakers, researchers, and community leaders seeking to harness the power of citizen involvement in R&I, particularly within the context of schools. Drawing on best practices and case studies from around the globe, it offers practical insights, tools, and resources to facilitate meaningful engagement and assess the impact of R&I agendas on educational outcomes.



## **3. THE AIMS AND HOW TO REACH THEM**

### 3. THE AIMS AND HOW TO REACH THEM

Planning an action to enhance public engagement in Research and Innovation (R&I) requires careful consideration of various factors, including target audience, objectives, resources, and desired outcomes. As a first step it is important to identify the aims and clarify the specific goals of the public engagement action. The general purpose is to raise awareness about knowledge in the broader definition of this term. This means to keep in mind the common distinction among humanities, economics, technical and natural sciences. By nature we need all of them and the border among disciplines are osmotic layers of exchange more than unbearable barriers. Thus, we aim to collect information from the audience to enhance the efficacy of actions fostering collaboration, and inspiring interest in all fields. Each action shall gather feedback from the community to identify weaknesses and strengths.

In a citizen-driven knowledge valorization approach, the focus is on harnessing the collective expertise and perspectives of the community to maximize the value of knowledge creation and dissemination. This approach empowers citizens to actively participate in shaping research agendas, contributing to data collection and analysis, and ultimately, leveraging their insights to drive innovation and societal progress.

A simple and intuitive list of things to do:

- **Understanding the Role of Citizens in R&I:** Exploring the benefits and challenges of citizen involvement and the ethical considerations at play.
- **Building Partnerships and Collaboration:** Strategies for forging effective partnerships between schools, research institutions, industry stakeholders, and the broader community.
- **Integrating R&I into Educational Settings:** Approaches for embedding R&I principles into school curricula, pedagogy, and extracurricular activities.
- **Evaluating Impact and Ensuring Accountability:** Tools and methodologies for assessing the effectiveness and societal relevance of R&I initiatives in schools.

## 3. THE AIMS AND HOW TO REACH THEM

### 3.1 Define Target Audience

In his preliminary step we determine the key stakeholders and segments of the public we want to engage. This may include students, educators, policymakers, industry professionals, community leaders, or the general public. The language and the complexity of the action is modulated on the audience. In all cases it is strongly suggested that representatives of the target audience are involved in co-designing the action (i.e., the language and the topics to be treated). By creating heterogeneous groups it is possible to favour the rise of a new community without borders.

A different point of view from a non-specialist offers to the specialist the chance to enhance the sharing skills and to explore the application of activities. Widening this concept to the more general one of Knowledge it realizes the UNESCO purpose “to open the process of ... knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community” (UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, <https://doi.org/10.54677/MNMFH8546>).



### 3.2 Choose Engagement Strategies with special attention to co-design

Establishing a favorable research environment is essential within any institution or community, and it is incumbent upon all stakeholders—be they researchers, students, administrators, support personnel, or citizens—to embrace this responsibility. Success hinges on robust engagement, necessitating a comprehensive approach from both organizations and research communities.

Collaborative efforts are crucial in navigating the multifaceted landscape of research themes and priorities, ensuring that every member plays a part in achieving shared objectives. Among others the most effective engagement strategies make use of Co-design methodologies. They can significantly bolster efforts to cultivate a positive research culture within organizations and societies. By involving a diverse array of stakeholders—including researchers, students, staff members, and citizens—in the design and implementation of research initiatives, co-design fosters a sense of ownership and shared responsibility.

This participatory approach ensures that the perspectives and priorities of all stakeholders are considered, leading to more inclusive and effective research outcomes. Furthermore, co-design facilitates the alignment of goals and visions among various parties involved in research endeavors. By collaboratively defining objectives and strategies, organizations and research communities can develop a cohesive and holistic vision for fostering a positive research culture.

### 3. THE AIMS AND HOW TO REACH THEM

This shared vision serves as a guiding framework for collective action and engagement, enhancing coordination and synergy among stakeholders. Moreover, co-design promotes transparency and accountability throughout the research process. By involving stakeholders in decision-making processes and providing opportunities for feedback and input, co-design enhances trust and communication within the research community. This transparency not only ensures that the needs and concerns of all stakeholders are addressed but also strengthens the overall integrity and credibility of the research enterprise. In summary, co-design offers a powerful framework for building and sustaining a positive research culture by promoting inclusivity, gender equality, alignment of goals, transparency, and accountability among stakeholders. By embracing co-design methodologies, organizations and research communities can create an environment where all members are actively engaged in shaping the future of research and innovation.







## 3. THE AIMS AND HOW TO REACH THEM

### 3.3 Select engagement strategies tailored to your objectives and target audience

1

**PUBLIC LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS.** Organize talks and workshops to showcase research findings, discuss emerging trends, or provide hands-on experiences. Open lectures specifically refer to individual lectures or presentations that are open to the public. These lectures may be part of a larger course or series of lectures, but they are distinct events that are accessible to anyone interested in attending, without the need for enrollment or formal registration.

2

**OPEN DAYS AND TOURS.** Invite the public to visit research facilities, laboratories, or innovation hubs to witness firsthand the work being done. During these events, visitors have the opportunity to explore the facilities, interact with researchers, observe ongoing projects, and learn about the latest advancements in research and innovation. These events serve as platforms for fostering public engagement, promoting transparency, and showcasing the impact of research and innovation on society. They also provide an opportunity for researchers and innovators to connect with the broader community, share their work, and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators. Overall, "open days and tours" play a crucial role in bridging the gap between the scientific community and the public, fostering collaboration, dialogue, and mutual understanding.

## 3. THE AIMS AND HOW TO REACH THEM

### 3.3 Select engagement strategies tailored to your objectives and target audience

3

**PUBLIC EVENTS** that blend art and science serve as inclusive platforms, bringing together diverse members of the community through shared experiences such as music, theatre, and cinema, fostering meaningful interactions and engagement. They serve as inclusive gatherings, where individuals from various backgrounds come together to explore, learn, and engage through immersive experiences. These events facilitate cross-disciplinary dialogue, foster creativity, and inspire collaboration among citizens of all ages and interests.

4

**OPEN LABORATORIES** focusing on cultural heritage aim to convey to the public the significance of their city, region, or country's cultural legacy. By providing access to historical artifacts and immersive experiences, these events instill a sense of ownership and pride in the community's heritage, while also highlighting the critical importance of preserving this legacy for future generations.

5

**OPEN CLASSES.** They typically refer to educational courses or classes that are open to anyone who wishes to attend, regardless of enrollment status or prerequisites. These classes may be offered by educational institutions or community organizations and are often designed to provide learning opportunities to a broader audience beyond traditional students.



## 3. THE AIMS AND HOW TO REACH THEM

### 3.4 Citizen Science Projects

Citizen science encourages community participation in research projects by involving them in data collection, analysis, or problem-solving activities. In defining the primary parameters of research and innovation (R&I) programming, it's advisable to offer direction without prescribing solutions, allowing ample room for creative exploration. While technologies should serve a purpose, there should also be leeway to think innovatively and consider unconventional approaches. Additionally, it's recommended to facilitate dialogue between researchers' aspirations and the legal and socio-economic context, fostering a harmonious integration of dreams and practical realities. The broader community should have the opportunity to make substantial contributions and be acknowledged as legitimate producers of scientific knowledge within Europe. Citizen science encompasses the participation of non-professional scientists in various aspects and levels of research and innovation. This includes influencing research agendas and policies, participating in data collection, processing, analysis, and evaluating research outcomes. Open science revolves around ensuring that every aspect of scientific exploration is openly accessible for all to observe, exchange, and utilize, fostering collaboration in the quest for fresh insights. It extends beyond mere open access, striving to democratize the development of knowledge. The fundamental premise is that everyone, including the general public, can engage with and access every facet of the research journey, not solely the ultimate research publication.

### 3.5 Collaborative Projects

Facilitate partnerships between researchers, industry stakeholders, and community groups to address local challenges or co-create solutions. By fostering collaboration across diverse sectors and expertise areas, these projects leverage the collective knowledge, resources, and perspectives of all involved parties. Through active engagement and participatory approaches, collaborative projects not only address immediate needs but also promote long-term sustainable development and community resilience. By embracing a collaborative mindset and fostering meaningful partnerships, these initiatives drive positive social impact, economic growth, and technological advancement, ultimately enriching the well-being and prosperity of the communities they serve.

## 3. THE AIMS AND HOW TO REACH THEM

### 3.6 Develop Communications Materials

#### 01

##### Online Platforms and Social Media

they play a crucial role in facilitating communication and engagement with a wide audience. These online channels offer opportunities to share updates, foster discussions, and crowdsource ideas, harnessing the collective wisdom and creativity of diverse communities. Utilizing a variety of multimedia formats, such as infographics, videos, brochures, and interactive online tools, researchers can effectively convey complex concepts and research findings in a visually engaging and easily digestible manner. By leveraging online platforms and social media, researchers can reach a broader audience beyond geographical boundaries and traditional communication channels. These digital channels enable real-time interaction and feedback, fostering a sense of community and collaboration among participants. In summary, by harnessing the power of online platforms and social media, researchers can engage with a young and technologically skilled audience, share updates, and crowdsource ideas in a dynamic and interactive manner. This enables the democratization of knowledge and fosters collaboration and innovation on a global scale.

#### 02

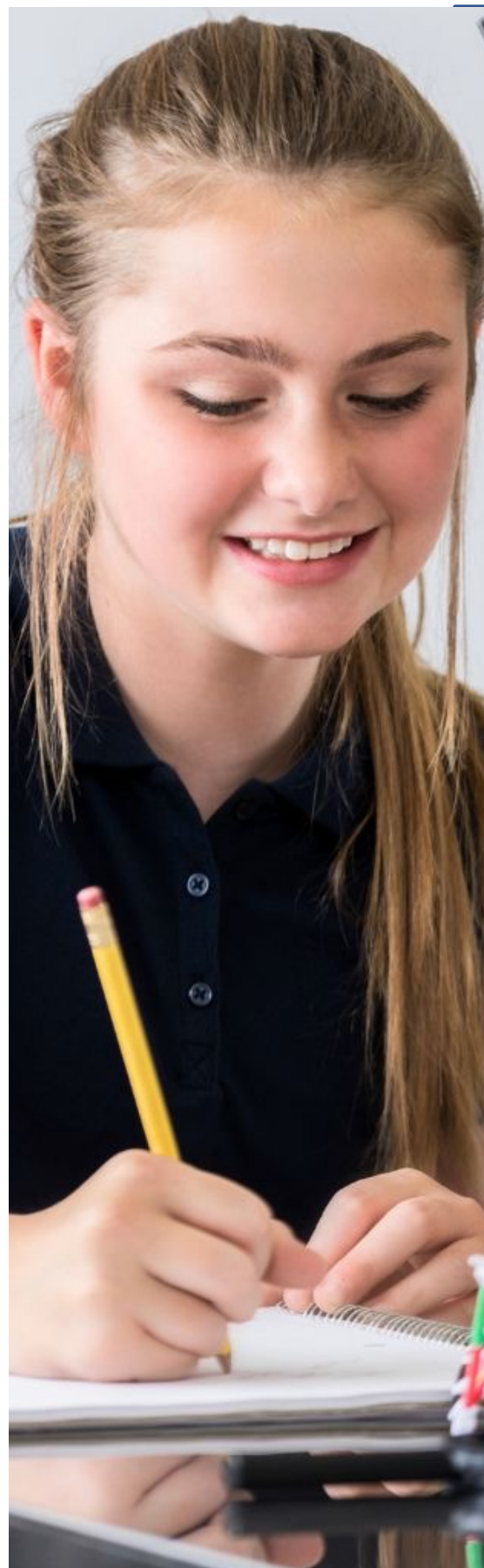
##### Books, novels and podcasts

they offer unique platforms to provide accessible and engaging mediums for sharing knowledge. Through carefully crafted written narratives and spoken dialogue, researchers can distillate intricate ideas into clear and compelling stories that resonate with listeners and readers alike. Books allow for in-depth exploration and detailed exposition, enabling individuals to delve deep into complex topics at their own pace. Podcasts, on the other hand, offer a dynamic and interactive format, where researchers can engage directly with their audience through spoken word. This medium provides a more personal and conversational approach to sharing research insights, fostering a sense of connection and intimacy between the presenter and the listener. By leveraging these traditional media forms, researchers can reach a broader audience beyond the constraints of age and technological proficiency. Books and podcasts are accessible to individuals of all ages and backgrounds, transcending generational divides and ensuring inclusivity in knowledge dissemination. Moreover, these media formats offer a timeless appeal that goes beyond the fleeting trends of the digital age. While modern technologies may come and go, books and podcasts endure as enduring platforms for communication, standing the test of time and remaining relevant across generations. In summary, by harnessing the power of books and podcasts, researchers can create engaging and accessible communication materials that convey complex research concepts in a clear and compelling manner, ensuring inclusivity and longevity in knowledge sharing endeavours.

#### 03 Fully inclusive materials

The message conveyed through the design and implementation of the action should be accessible to all individuals, including those with disabilities, ensuring no one is excluded. To achieve this goal, individuals with disabilities should be actively involved in the preparation of communication materials, ensuring their needs and perspectives are fully considered and incorporated. This inclusive approach not only promotes accessibility but also fosters diversity, equity, and meaningful participation for all members of the community.

## 3. THE AIMS AND HOW TO REACH THEM



### 3.7 Build Partnerships

Collaborate with local organizations, schools, businesses, and community groups to amplify the reach and impact of your engagement efforts. Seek out allies who share a common interest in promoting R&I and building stronger ties between academia and society.

In all endeavors, collaboration should be regarded as a fundamental pillar and a wellspring of inspiration. Regardless of the subject matter being communicated to the audience, it is paramount to recognize the importance of local ecosystems and key stakeholders, including schools at all grade levels, who play pivotal roles in disseminating information effectively.

By fostering partnerships with diverse stakeholders, including local communities and educational institutions, initiatives can tap into invaluable insights, resources, and networks that enhance the impact and reach of their messages. Understanding the intricacies of the local microsystem enables initiatives to tailor their communication strategies to resonate authentically with the audience, ensuring that messages are conveyed in a manner that is culturally relevant, linguistically appropriate, and contextually sensitive.

By harnessing the collective expertise and support of collaborative partners, initiatives can amplify their voices, broaden their influence, and effect meaningful change within their communities and beyond.

## 3. THE AIMS AND HOW TO REACH THEM

### 3.8 Implement the Action, Evaluate and Iterate

Execute the planned activities, ensuring they are inclusive, interactive, and accessible to diverse audiences. Provide opportunities for two-way communication, allowing participants to ask questions, share their perspectives, and contribute ideas.

Inclusivity entails ensuring that the event is accessible to all individuals, irrespective of physical or mental disabilities. The event's design should incorporate strategies to accommodate diverse disabilities and foster opportunities for collaboration among participants.

Assess the effectiveness of the public engagement action by collecting feedback, measuring engagement metrics, and evaluating outcomes against the initial objectives. Use this information to refine future engagement strategies and continuously improve the impact of your efforts.

### 3.9 Sustain Engagement

Maintain ongoing communication and engagement with the public beyond the initial action. Foster a sense of community ownership and involvement in R&I initiatives by providing regular updates, hosting follow-up events, and nurturing long-term partnerships.





## 4. EXAMPLES

By following the previously mentioned steps and adopting a strategic approach, you can design and implement a successful action to enhance public engagement in Research and Innovation. Hereafter a few examples of actions. Please note these do not represent all the activities organized, but just a selection of them.



**4.1 EXAMPLES  
PARTNERS ACTIVITIES**

## University of Seville, Spain

TITLE	BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
<b>MicroMundo@Sevilla</b>	<p>Students are involved in a series of practical activities related to Microbiology, which are carried out in their educational centers and attended by professors and students from the University of Seville. The activity takes place over 5 sessions in which, from soil samples collected by the students themselves, they explore microbial biodiversity through cultivation in microbiological media.</p> <p>Subsequently, from among the isolated microorganisms, they select some to be confronted with bacteria closely related to the so-called ESKAPE group (Enterococcus, Staphylococcus, Klebsiella, Acinetobacter, Pseudomonas and Enterobacter), which includes the microorganisms cataloged by the WHO as an urgent threat, in search of antibiotic phenomena.</p>	<p>MicroMundo@Sevilla has a two-fold objective: on the one hand, to involve young people in our society in raising awareness about the rational use of antibiotics and promoting research into the discovery of new antimicrobial strategies; on the other hand, to motivate young students towards a career in Experimental Sciences by immersing them in a real project to search for new antibiotics.</p> <p><a href="https://www.us.es/actualidad-de-la-us/el-proyecto-micromundosevilla-acerca-la-microbiologia-los-jovenes-de-la">https://www.us.es/actualidad-de-la-us/el-proyecto-micromundosevilla-acerca-la-microbiologia-los-jovenes-de-la</a></p>
<b>Opening Citius</b>	<p>CITIUS regularly organizes guided tours, offering students an in-depth look at the techniques, equipment, and research conducted at the University of Seville, delving into their practical applications. In line with our strong commitment to knowledge transfer, CITIUS also offers guided tours for national and international institutions, companies, and experts interested in exploring our facilities. This initiative allows us to transcend local boundaries and enrich ourselves through the exchange of ideas and experiences.</p>	<p>The primary goals of these guided tours are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspire a passion for research and scientific culture among pre-university students: CITIUS scientists provide an engaging and up-close perspective on the world of scientific research, fostering a passion for exploration and discovery among the next generation of scientists.</li> <li>- Bridge the gap between science and society: We seek to connect the general public and businesses with the world of cutting-edge scientific equipment and research, fostering a deeper understanding of the role of science in society and its potential to address real-world challenges.</li> </ul>

## 4. EXAMPLES

### University of Seville, Spain

TITLE	BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
<b>Openning Citius</b>		For complete information on how to visit our facilities, please follow this link. <a href="https://citius.us.es/web/divulgacion.php#visitas">https://citius.us.es/web/divulgacion.php#visitas</a>
<b>Quifibiomat</b>	<p>Join us for an unforgettable journey into the captivating realm of science!</p> <p>The Faculties of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Mathematics at the University of Seville cordially invite you to our annual Open House Days, held during the Andalusian Science Week in November. These exciting events are specifically designed for high school and 8th-grade students, aiming to ignite a passion for scientific exploration and discovery among our future scientists.</p>	<p>The joint Open House Days at the University of Seville's science campus aim to bridge the gap between academia and the next generation of STEM enthusiasts, particularly encouraging young girls to explore the exciting world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).</p> <p><a href="https://quimica.us.es/la-facultad/poat/quifibiomat-jornadas-de-puertas-abiertas-ciencias">https://quimica.us.es/la-facultad/poat/quifibiomat-jornadas-de-puertas-abiertas-ciencias</a></p>

### University of Genoa, Italy

TITLE	BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
<p><b>OPEN VICOLI – PaVimenti (Open Streets – Floors)</b></p>	<p>To enhance the local network and improve social inclusion in the Historic Center of Genoa. Open Vicoli is an Open Class action aiming to improve social inclusion by using the historical buildings. It involves people affected by the autism syndrome, who are engaged to create a 3D printed puzzle as a replica of the marmoreal inlay pattern typical of the building's floor. It started in a strategic building like "Palazzo Rosso" part of the complex "Musei di Strada Nuova" in Genoa. This is one of the iconic historical buildings rich in collections and valuable documentations. It is open to the public and appreciated by tourists and visitors becoming, with this project, a place for the laboratories of educators, professionals and citizens. The action has seen the cooperation of the university with the Civic Museums (Genoa Municipality), with social cooperatives (i.e., Cooperativa Sociale, BAM! Strategie Culturali, 3Dprinting Lab, Robotics Lab, Arte e Gioco association, Solidarietà e lavoro), Philos psycho-pedagogical association, Social Hub Genova (incubator for social impact start-up), and Clemson University (with a base in Genova, working on urbanism and mgmt).</p>	<p>Increased awareness of the participants toward people with autism and of the positive impact of art therapy. An art product exhibited for the general visitors focusing on the floor peculiarities. Enhancement of the social inclusion. Improvement of the audience engagement in the heritage historical building space. Lessons learned: The co-creation step in the project development is valuable for both the audience, the educators and the museum's operators. All participants have felt to be citizens beyond the disability. Traces left: <a href="https://www.openvicoli.it/2019/10/01/da-maggio-ad-oggi-cosa-ha-fatto-la-rete-di-openvicoli/">https://www.openvicoli.it/2019/10/01/da-maggio-ad-oggi-cosa-ha-fatto-la-rete-di-openvicoli/</a></p>
<p><b>Scrittori da una realtà parallela (writers from a parallel reality)</b></p>	<p>A talk show centered around literature, stories, inclusion, disabilities, emotions, and encounters, with a focus on various forms of disability as portrayed by the authors. This event is organized through collaboration and sponsorship from numerous national and local institutions, associations, and volunteers, including:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High-school students participated actively to the event offering their fresh vision and ideas. They resulted open to the two-ways exchange.</li> <li>- Awareness is raised to the fact that disability can be experienced as a daily event in harmonious participation in social life.</li> </ul>

## 4. EXAMPLES

### University of Genoa, Italy

TITLE	BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
	<p>Cepell (Center for Books and Reading), Liguria Region, University of Genoa, Palazzo Ducale Foundation, Liguria Regional School Office, ANGSA, and AISM (Italian Multiple Sclerosis Association). UnigeRadio, the web radio of UNIGE, served as a media partner. Through a continuous and fluid exchange among authors, protagonists, experts, and the audience, the world has been described through the eyes of those who live with disability as a normal condition. The talk show provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and exploration of diverse perspectives, fostering empathy, understanding, and awareness of the challenges and triumphs experienced by individuals with disabilities. By showcasing the creative talents and unique voices of disabled authors, the event celebrated the richness and diversity of human experience, inspiring audiences to embrace inclusivity and advocate for equal opportunities for all. Through collaborative efforts and community support, the talk show exemplified the power of collective action in creating positive change and fostering a more inclusive society for everyone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Science and medicine, combined with literature or the mindful use of social media, are powerful tools of communication, sharing, and unity.</li> <li>- The ability to confront limitations imposed by physical impairments (e.g., blindness, deafness, malfunctioning, or lack of limbs) is successfully addressed with creativity, not to make them normal but to be so without the need for alteration.</li> </ul> <p>Lesson learned: it is important not to try to negate disability but to embrace it. Seeing everyday life through the eyes of others is a school of life.</p> <p>Criticism: Avoid creating competition, comparison, and, above all, the idea of being special and different.</p> <p>To know more</p> <p><a href="https://palazzoducale.genova.it/evento/scrittori-da-una-realta-parallela-iv-edizione/">https://palazzoducale.genova.it/evento/scrittori-da-una-realta-parallela-iv-edizione/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.superabile.it/portal_e/it/dettaglio.gen.2024.04.scrittore/ri-realta-parallela-date-programma.html">https://www.superabile.it/portal_e/it/dettaglio.gen.2024.04.scrittore/ri-realta-parallela-date-programma.html</a></p>
<p><b>Metrology for the Sea – MetroSea student challenge</b></p>	<p>The event was carried out at the Old Harbour of Genoa in cooperation with other universities and associations, such as: Univ. Federico II of Naples, Univ. Brescia, University Campus Bio-medico Rome, Green Tech Solution start-up, ONG Parlatecnica, AFCEa (Armed Forces Communications &amp; Electronics Association. young members, ONG FEYLA, CESMA (weather and technological services), Ass. Old Harbour.</p>	<p>As main outcomes it was found that changes and benefits resulted from the good practice of involving students in training, building and using specific devices. The application resulted in a strong motivation.</p>

### University of Genoa, Italy

TITLE	BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
	<p>Team of students of Universities or High-schools from all over the world have been called to implement a “LITTER HUNTER Edu” (a.k.a., kit build by the start-up Green Tech Solutions) to collect plastic objects on the bordered stretch of water within the harbour. The challenge consisted of assembling a marine drone; completing parts of the programming code; allowing the catamaran to reach and collect targets (plastic waste) to complete the mission. The action was enriched by social engagement activities on environmental issues, environment protection and best usage of innovative technologies.</p>	<p>Lesson learned: Involvement of Students from different Universities for a hand-on activity dedicated to environmental sustainability creates synergies with enhanced efficacy, Creative solutions, opportunities of public engagement</p> <p>To organize events involving students from various backgrounds in a public space increases the impact on general public. This strongly contributes to the creation of public awareness.</p> <p>To know more</p> <p><a href="https://www.metrosea.org/ms2019/metrosea-student-challenge-eng">https://www.metrosea.org/ms2019/metrosea-student-challenge-eng</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/466935373914274">https://www.facebook.com/events/466935373914274</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.imeko.org/piblications/tc19-Metrosea-2019/IMEKO-TC19-METROSEA-2019-53.pdf">https://www.imeko.org/piblications/tc19-Metrosea-2019/IMEKO-TC19-METROSEA-2019-53.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>CINEVERSITY – International Permanent Film Festival</b></p>	<p>Bringing culture, critical topics, and the sciences to a higher level of discussion through the medium of movies and theatrical events is the core objective of Cineversity. This event is open to all, fostering collaboration between students (from UNIGE and the Academy of Art) and citizens as they work together to curate the festival.</p> <p>UNIGE spearheads this initiative in cooperation with several partners, including the association 28 December, the FLIGHT festival, the ONG Cineguida, the Cineclub Nickelodeon, and the Little Pub Kowalski.</p>	<p>Co-design facilitates the realization of fully participatory events, where the audience feels a sense of ownership and contributes to its promotion. Students are the real driving force and the higher the responsibility the higher the commitment they show.</p> <p>By bringing sensitive topics outside the academic walls, discussions become more fluid and constructive, with undefined roles such as professor versus student.</p>

## 4. EXAMPLES

### University of Genoa, Italy

TITLE	BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
	<p>The event's agenda is collaboratively designed by a team of volunteers, representing the aforementioned stakeholders. Audience members are encouraged to become part of the team, ensuring inclusivity and diversity in the planning process.</p> <p>Discussions at Cineversity are enriched by special guests and the active participation of the diverse audience.</p> <p>Each event features additional elements such as readings, theater performances, and music, carefully curated to stimulate discussion and enhance the cinematic experience.</p>	<p>When students and citizens are able to share their thoughts, researchers gain new perspectives and are enriched with fresh ideas.</p> <p>A valuable lesson learned is that cinema and theatre have a unique ability to engage and unite the audience.</p> <p>A well-engaged audience is a crucial step in social growth. However, a challenge remains in securing funding to maintain the program as planned.</p> <p>To know more</p> <p><a href="http://cineversity.unige.it/festival">http://cineversity.unige.it/festival</a></p> <p><a href="https://intranet.unige.it/cineversitykinoversity-rassegna-cinematografica">https://intranet.unige.it/cineversitykinoversity-rassegna-cinematografica</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.genovatoday.it/eventi/cultura/cineversity-dicembre-tim-burton.html">https://www.genovatoday.it/eventi/cultura/cineversity-dicembre-tim-burton.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.instagram.com/cineversity_genova/">https://www.instagram.com/cineversity_genova/</a></p>



## 4. EXAMPLES

### Université Côte d'Azur, France

TITLE	BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
<p><b>Science Fair</b></p>	<p>A national science outreach event, the Science Fair (Fête de la Science) promotes science for everyone. During this event, the general public and schoolchildren have the opportunity to meet those involved in research, discover the sciences and gain a better understanding of the world around us.</p> <p>It takes place every year in October, with a wide range of events throughout the region.</p>	<p>In 2023, there were 33,630 participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 26,786: general public</li> <li>- 6,844: schoolchildren participants</li> </ul>
<p><b>Brain Week</b></p>	<p>The Brain Week is organized each March by researchers of Université Côte d'Azur. This international event, organized simultaneously in around a hundred countries and more than 120 towns and cities in France aims at raising public awareness of the importance of brain research.</p> <p>It's an opportunity for many volunteer researchers, doctors and students to meet the public and share their experiences.</p> <p>Throughout the week, members of the public were able to meet researchers, learn more about the brain and keep up to date with the latest research. The programme included conferences, scientific workshops, film debates and escape games, with a total of around twenty events organised throughout the Côte d'Azur.</p>	<p>Throughout the week, members of the public were able to meet researchers, learn more about the brain and keep up to date with the latest research. The programme included conferences, scientific workshops, film debates and escape games, with a total of around twenty events organised throughout the Côte d'Azur.</p>

### Université Côte d'Azur, France

TITLE	BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
<p><b>Cine-science Festival</b></p>	<p>The Cinéscience festival is organised once a year, with screenings for schools and the general public.</p> <p>This festival uses the medium of cinema to tackle various scientific subjects through high-quality cinematographic or scientific films. Screenings of short, medium-length and feature-length films are on offer, offering a cross-section of art and science, with discussions between the public and the directors and/or researchers from Université Côte d'Azur.</p> <p>The aim of this festival is to use the 7th Art to develop interest in science among young people and the general public, by surprising them. The screenings are designed to raise questions and encourage debate on current scientific and social issues.</p> <p>The cine-science Festival dedicated to the public is more likely to address major societal issues, raise awareness of contemporary scientific, technological and environmental issues and give science its rightful place in the common culture.</p>	<p>For this 2024 edition, 4 screenings were held for schoolchildren during the week of 19 to 24 February. The various screenings reached 516 schoolchildren. At the end, 10 schools with 22 classes from 6ème (College) to seconde (high school) took part in the event.</p>
<p><b>European Researchers Night</b></p>	<p>The European Research Night is a Europe-wide public event that brings researchers closer to the public. The Night provides researchers the opportunity to showcase the diversity of science and its impact on citizens' daily lives, and to stimulate interest in research careers – especially among young people. The events highlight how researchers contribute to our society by displaying their work in an interactive and engaging forum.</p> <p>Researchers will show to the public what they do in their research laboratories through some amazing and original activities: science walks, science and fiction, the tree of possibilities, the researcher's suitcase, virtual reality headsets, etc.</p>	<p>In 2023, the Science and Society department of Université Côte d'Azur, together with its research partners, organised the 4th European Researchers' Night in Nice. This was the 3rd live event to be held in the grounds of the Valrose science campus.</p> <p>Key figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4th edition in Nice</li> <li>- 1600 visitors</li> <li>- 64 researchers</li> <li>- 35 research units represented - 11 event formats on offer</li> <li>- 33 people involved in organising the event, including 11 student volunteers</li> </ul>

## Technical University of Košice, Slovakia

TITLE	BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION	OUTCOMES
<p><b>Košice 2.0</b></p>	<p>The Košice 2.0 project concentrates on citizens. Those who live in the city and those who work, study, create and spend their free time there. Citizens play an integral part in the project activities.</p> <p>Citizens can get involved in the project in various ways, either by expressing their views on data collection through surveys or participating in one of the project activities. Over the three years of the project, partners organized lectures, seminars, and workshops for citizens. They could also participate in an educational program or work on their own ideas during innovation programs.</p> <p>Most importantly, the citizens could take part in the You innovate! grant program. The Municipality of Košice published three open calls for citizens with specific challenges that needed resolving. These challenges were directly related to the city and the services it provided. Selected proposals or prototypes were supported not only financially but also technologically in the so-called Fab-Lab.</p> <p>The project was led by the municipal organization Creative Industry Košice, and the Technical University of Košice participated in the project through the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Economics.</p>	<p>Access to information is essential for transparent and effective decision-making by the local government, the start of innovative activity and, ultimately, for the improvement of services to citizens and entrepreneurs in the city.</p> <p>Open data is information or data freely and freely available to everyone under equal conditions that can be used for any purpose. Thanks to the Košice 2.0 project, a central portal for open data, the so-called open data portal. It will concentrate public administration data in one place and in the following period will make it available to citizens, entrepreneurs, the third sector and self-government.</p> <p>The Open Data Platform is available at the link:</p> <p><a href="https://opendata.kosice.sk/">https://opendata.kosice.sk/</a></p>

EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH  
NIGHT 2022



**Ricardo**



## 4.2 EXAMPLES

ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES  
AS PART OF COMPASS



What is a smart city?

### Ulysseus European University alliance COMPASS activities

#### EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT 2021

On 24 September 2021, Ulysseus held a series of video-interviews with six Ulysseus scientists on circular economy, climate change, green transition, renewable energy and waste management all of them, closely related to the European Green Deal. [Watch them](#)



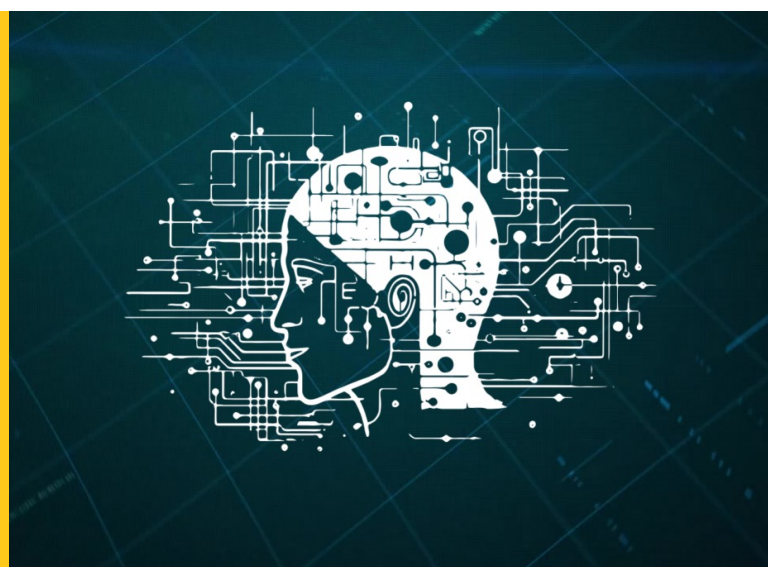
#### EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT 2022

On 30 September 2022, Ulysseus held a quiz involving children and Ulysseus scientists. Here, young students from six European countries challenged our researchers to answer questions related to smart cities.. [Watch them.](#)



#### EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT 2023

On 29 September 2023 Ulysseus joined the European Researchers' Night, a Europe-wide public event which aims at bringing science closer to the public in a engaging way. For this occasion, four Ulysseus experts explained to us in a series of mini interviews how Artificial Intelligence is bringing benefits to citizens in different ways. [Watch all videos](#)



### Ulysseus European University alliance COMPASS activities

#### SCIENCE: WHERE MAGIC HAPPENS

Roundtable celebrated in February 2022 with occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. At this online event, upper secondary students from six countries had the opportunity to ask questions to young female researchers from Ulysseus about their barriers and challenges experienced in their academic careers as female scientists. [Watch them](#)



#### WHO YOU ARE MATTERS

Webinar held in February 2023 that targets young scientists and aims at raising awareness about the need and importance of incorporating a gender+ and intersectional perspective in STEM research in European Universities. [Watch it](#)



#### FEMALE SCIENTISTS BREAKING BARRIERS

“Female scientists breaking barriers in research” consists of seven interviews conducted in March 2023 to Ulysseus female researchers that offer the opportunity to the general public to learn about existing challenges in society that have motivated these researchers to do research in gender studies. [Watch these interviews](#)



## 4. EXAMPLES

### Ulyseus European University alliance COMPASS activities

#### SCIENCE FAIR IN SEVILLE 2022

The Science Fair of Seville is an annual scientific dissemination event aiming at engaging and involving young students in the field of science. At this event, elementary and secondary schools from Andalusia (Spain), universities & research centres showcase their science projects. For this occasion, Ulyseus had a booth and organized an Instagram contest in which students presented their science projects and won merchandising items of Ulyseus.



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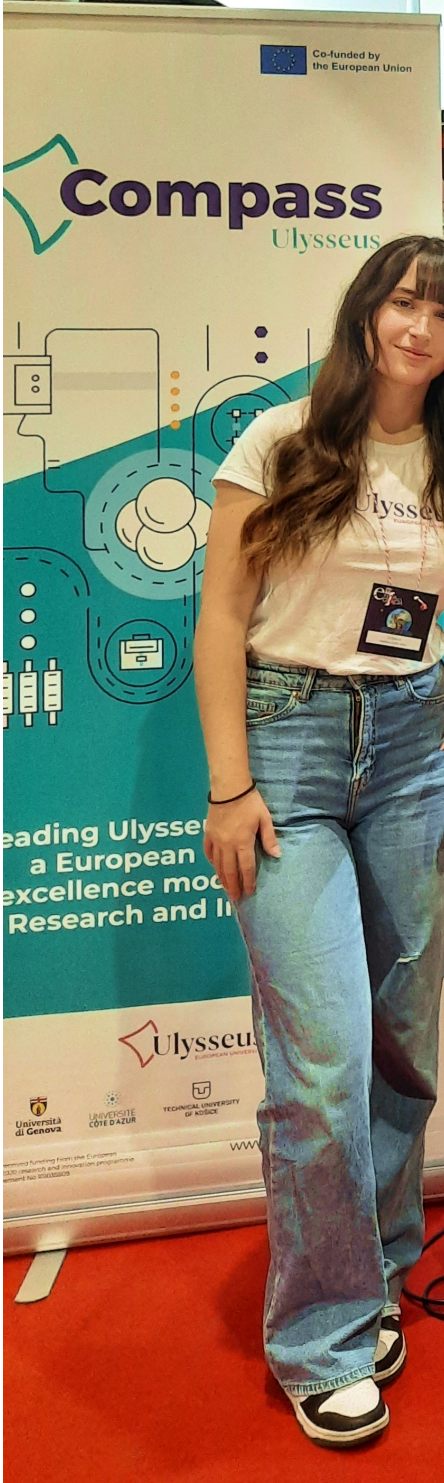
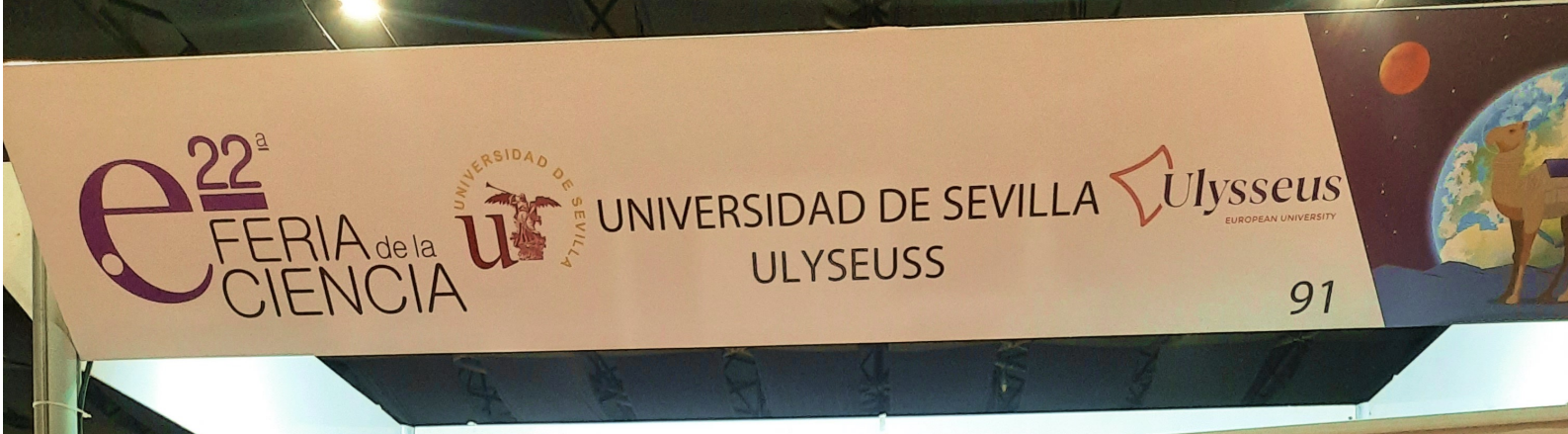








Good practices guide on involvement of citizens and the impact of the R&I Agenda in schools of the Ulysseus cities and regions



Good practices guide on involvement of citizens and the impact of the R&I Agenda in schools of the Ulysseus cities and regions

## Ulysseus European University alliance COMPASS activities

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE 2024

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is an international observance launched by the United Nations celebrated annually on February 11 which aims to promote gender equality in the field of science.

To celebrate this occasion, we interviewed Ulysseus students from various STEM disciplines who explain to us why they chose their field of studies and tell us who are the females scientist that mostly inspire them. The objective was to serve as a platform to raise awareness about the challenges women face in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and advocates for increased opportunities and support for women pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. [Watch Videos](#)



Elena Llebrez-Torres



Student of the BSc in Software Engineering at the University of Seville (Spain)

Fabiola Fick



Student of MSc in Smart-EdTech, Co-creativity, Technology and Enhanced Learning at Université Côte d'Azur (France)

Flavia Boragina



PhD student in the Chemistry, Materials and Chemical Sciences Doctoral School at University of Genoa (Italy)

Saga Yliluoma



Student of the BSc in Business Information Technology in Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences (Finland)

Maria Grazianova



PhD student at the Institute of Technology, Economics and Management in Construction at the Technical University of Kosice (Slovakia)

Ajla Šukurica



Student of BSc in Mathematics and Computer Sciences at the University of Montenegro (Montenegro)





# 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



In concluding our exploration of the involvement of citizens and the impact of R&I Agenda in schools at the local and regional levels, it is imperative that we reinforce our dedication to democratizing research and innovation. By prioritizing co-design, inclusivity, care for disabilities, gender equality, as well as art and cultural heritage, we pave the way for a more equitable and prosperous future.

Moving forward, it is essential to continue nurturing a collaborative environment where citizens are actively engaged in shaping the R&I agenda. By doing so, we not only foster innovation but also promote social cohesion and empower the next generation of global citizens to contribute meaningfully to society.

Therefore, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to inclusivity and sustainability, leveraging the collective wisdom and creativity of diverse stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities of our time. Together, we can build a brighter future for generations to come.

## 6. LINKS AND WEBSITES



### 6.1 Other activities in Ulysseus

- <https://ulyseus.eu/compass/events/>
- [https://ulyseus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/D2.2-Ulysseus-Digital-Platform\\_f.pdf](https://ulyseus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/D2.2-Ulysseus-Digital-Platform_f.pdf)
- <https://ulyseus.eu/learn>
- <https://videos.ulyseus.eu/>
- <https://science.ulyseus.eu/>
- <https://ulyseus.eu/match4cooperation/>

### 6.2 Links to know more about the EU/International vision and the opportunities offered to design actions on involvement of citizens and the impact of the R&I Agenda

- [https://apre.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ec\\_rtd\\_he-co-design-activities-report\\_102019\\_.pdf](https://apre.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ec_rtd_he-co-design-activities-report_102019_.pdf)
- [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/5106eb71-7246-4f77-a27e-a36c1d953cde\\_en?filename=ec\\_rtd\\_he-partnerships-chemical-risk-assessment.pdf](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/5106eb71-7246-4f77-a27e-a36c1d953cde_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-partnerships-chemical-risk-assessment.pdf)
- [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-06/ec\\_rtd\\_he-investing-to-shape-our-future\\_0.pdf](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-06/ec_rtd_he-investing-to-shape-our-future_0.pdf)
- <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/945e39a3-e0f0-11ee-8b2b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>
- [https://transform4europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/report\\_on\\_good\\_practices\\_from\\_european\\_university-JW0224026ENN.pdf](https://transform4europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/report_on_good_practices_from_european_university-JW0224026ENN.pdf)
- <https://www.eurecapro.eu/eureca-pro-mentioned-as-good-practice-in-eu-report/>

## 6. LINKS AND WEBSITES

- <https://cicant.ulusofona.pt/agenda-news/news-events/1146-report-good-practices-european-university-alliances>
- <https://run-eu.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2024/02/D1.4-Good-Practices-Book-of-European-Universities.pdf>
- <https://www.engageuniversity.eu/reports-and-deliverables/>
- <https://www.charm-eu.eu/system/files/2023-11/SwafSDetailedProgramme%20%282%29.pdf>
- <https://eua.eu/news/1068:report-progress-of-university-alliance-projects.html>
- [https://ec2u.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/709/2023/04/RI4C2\\_WP8\\_Deliverable\\_8\\_4\\_FOREU2Subgroups.pdf](https://ec2u.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/709/2023/04/RI4C2_WP8_Deliverable_8_4_FOREU2Subgroups.pdf)
- <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/624713>
- [https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/ri\\_agenda.pdf](https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/ri_agenda.pdf)
- [https://eua.eu/downloads/content/eua\\_strategic\\_plan\\_final.pdf](https://eua.eu/downloads/content/eua_strategic_plan_final.pdf)
- [https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/universities without walls a vision for 2030.pdf](https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/universities_without_walls_a_vision_for_2030.pdf)
- <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949.locale=en>
- [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science_en)
- <https://www.openaire.eu/open-science-europe-overview>
- [https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science\\_en](https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science_en)
- <https://openscience.eu/>
- <https://eosc.eu/>



## 6. LINKS AND WEBSITES

- <https://apre.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/valorising-research-through-citizens-engagement-KI0722344ENN.pdf>
- [https://transform4europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/report\\_on\\_good\\_practices\\_from\\_european\\_university-JW0224026ENN.pdf](https://transform4europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/report_on_good_practices_from_european_university-JW0224026ENN.pdf)
- <https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/policy-agenda-2022-2024/taking-together-challenges-posed-twin-green-and-digital-transition-and-increasing-societys>
- [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/eu-missions-citizen-engagement-activities\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/eu-missions-citizen-engagement-activities_en)







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