



TRANSFORMING OPEN RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION THROUGH CHARM
TORCH

DELIVERABLE D11.2 – TORCH: COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION REPORT 2

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION REPORT 2

This deliverable encapsulates TORCH's communication activities from July 2022 to December 2023, emphasizing the project's commitment to open, responsible, and impactful research. The overarching aim of TORCH is to fortify the R&I dimension of the CHARM-EU Alliance, aligning with the European Commission's Vision. Here, we provide an overview of the communication activities carried out, their main goal being to maximize impact among different stakeholders. The report is based on WP10-11 previous deliverables, as well as in the CHARM-EU Communication and Dissemination strategy.

Strategic Communication Approach

The TORCH Communication, Dissemination, and Exploitation Strategy, designed with a SMART methodology, focuses on both internal and external communication. Internal communication targets CHARM-EU and TORCH members, fostering bidirectional dialogue, while external communication spans local, national, regional, and European levels. Distinct audience segments, such as students, academics, business entities, policymakers, and media, are prioritized to tailor messages effectively.

TORCH Events Highlights

The report delves into key TORCH events during the second project phase:

- **TORCH Annual Forums:** Detailed insights into the 2nd and 3rd Open Forums, emphasizing collaborative strategies, societal challenges, and the common R&I agenda.
- **Internal Forums:** In-depth coverage of the 2nd and 3rd Annual Internal Forums, focusing on recapitulation, workplan discussions, and future R&I dimension development.
- **Events Linked to Pilot Actions:** A comprehensive overview of events like CHARM-EU Open Science Days, Research Support Offices meeting, CHARM-EU R&I Days, Citizen Science Training, and thematic events promoting gender equality and innovation.

Dissemination Articles

The report highlights key dissemination articles, showcasing TORCH's impact on Open Science practices, other WPs results, and the joint alliance statement on the investment pathway. These articles serve as knowledge-sharing tools and exemplify TORCH's commitment to transparency.

External Networks and Connections

TORCH actively engages in external networks, reinforcing collaboration with other European University Alliances. The project's participation in various conferences and events is detailed, underscoring TORCH's visibility and contribution to the broader R&I ecosystem.

TORCH Awards & Others

Recognition efforts, such as the CHARM-EU Open Science Recognition Award, demonstrate TORCH's commitment to celebrating individuals fostering Open Science. Additionally, TORCH's recognition in initiatives like the Athena Swan Award and INORMS 2023 Award is acknowledged.

Communication Channels and First Results

The report assesses TORCH's communication channels, focusing on the website, social media (LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube), and their effectiveness in disseminating information. The ongoing evolution of the CHARM-EU/TORCH website is highlighted, emphasizing the integration of research-related content.

Evaluation, Lessons Learned, and Next Steps

Evaluation of TORCH indicates positive strides in facilitating collaboration, emphasizing the importance of a forward-looking perspective for long-term impact. The report acknowledges the gradual nature of collaborative outcomes and underscores the project's commitment to fostering sustainable research networks. The lessons learned, especially regarding the laborious yet resilient nature of bottom-up partnerships, provide valuable insights for scaling and future collaboration within the CHARM-EU Alliance and beyond. Looking ahead, TORCH aims to apply these lessons to join forces with similar University Alliances, contributing to the growth of a robust European research network.

In conclusion, TORCH's communication and dissemination efforts are integral to its mission, ensuring transparency, engagement, and impactful knowledge transfer. The project remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing responsible research and innovation within the CHARM-EU Alliance and the broader European landscape.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context and aims of this deliverable

The TORCH project (Transforming Open Responsible Research and Innovation through CHARM), funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 program, seeks to establish a common Research & Innovation (R&I) agenda for CHARM-EU. This endeavor is driven by CHARM-EU's vision and mission, which is based on transdisciplinarity and interculturality to solve complex societal challenges and aligns teaching and research strategies with the European Commission's Vision 2030.

To amplify TORCH's visibility and impact across all stakeholder groups, effective communication, dissemination, and exploitation strategies are crucial. A multi-layered, adaptable approach has been essential to keep pace with the project's development which necessitated innovative communication adjustments.

The first Communication and Dissemination Report (D10.5) presented a summary of the actions performed, an evaluation of all the communication and dissemination actions carried out in the TORCH project from February 2021 until June 2022, and the next steps to be developed. The document also reported on the perspective of various audiences, with an outline of the issues, challenges, and key contributions to the transformational R&I agenda.

This Communication and Dissemination Report (D11.2) describes the TORCH communication activities carried out from July 2022 to December 2023. The report outlines the key contributions made, providing a transparent view of TORCH's communication and dissemination efforts. By summarizing actions, this report serves as an example of TORCH's commitment to open, responsible, and impactful research.

1.2. The TORCH Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation Strategy: Brief Overview

The overall objective of TORCH is to build up the R&I dimension of the CHARM-EU Alliance through the development of a challenge-driven transformative agenda based on a transdisciplinary and intercultural vision to solve complex societal challenges.

The TORCH communication and dissemination strategy was primarily designed (1) to inform about the project activities, and (2) to disseminate its main outputs, seeking to generate impact both at the internal level (TORCH partners) and at the external level with a variety of stakeholders (Business & Civil Society), thus contributing to achieve TORCH's main goal to consolidate a common R&I science agenda for the European Universities. The TORCH communication and dissemination roadmap focuses on public project results boosting skills and knowledge transfer, sharing best practices, processes and methodologies, and building sustainable networks.

In June 2021 a Communication and Dissemination Strategy and Action Plan (Deliverable 10.3) was designed to maximize the impact of the project by raising awareness on its activities, challenges and results towards a wide audience (internal, institutional, national, regional and European level) while

contributing to shape a CHARM-EU R&I agenda to tackle global challenges such as climate change, sustainability, gender gap, inclusion and equity. This general objective has been defined based on the SMART methodology (Figure 1).

- S** Specific – Maximise the impact of the project in the society by raising awareness about its goals and activities and engaging the audience while contributing to overcome global challenges.
- M** Measurable - Different indicators - quantitative and qualitative - were developed to evaluate and monitor the impact of the project and its activities.
- A** Attainable – Together with all the work packages and under the umbrella of CHARM-EU, the messages and the different actions will be formulated according to the type of content and the target public, providing a successful transfer of knowledge.
- R** Relevant – This is a relevant goal not only for people involved in the project or the academic sector but also for business, civil society and policy makers given that it promotes an inclusive and transformative research and innovation agenda.
- T** Timely – A timeframe will be set in order to achieve this goal during and beyond the lifetime of the project.

Figure 1. SMART methodology.

Having these elements in consideration, the objectives and targets were defined as follows:

- **SO1 – Awareness:** Raise awareness about project and its main activities as an important mechanism to promote R&I and Open Science within the alliance, universities, researchers, and business and civil society.
- **SO2 – Transparency:** Clearly communicate about activities described in the scope of the project, ensuring transparency and accountability in its governance model.
- **SO3 – Engagement:** Support the implementation of TORCH by communicating and dissemination the results sought by the project and beyond ensuring that the audience will properly benefit from the project's actions and outcomes.
- **SO5 – Knowledge exchange:** Consolidate of a strong research community based on the intercultural and transdisciplinary approach and promote synergies between TORCH, internal and external actors, including citizens, business sector and policy makers.
- **SO5 – Mainstream the communication:** To strength internal and external communication mechanisms and reinforce the TORCH identity, through the correct use of the visual identity manual and all the traits described in this strategy.
- **SO6 – Impact:** To monitor the impact of the dissemination strategy at three levels: internal, institutional, and social to better know its effectiveness and seek to continue growing over time.

The TORCH audience segmentation was designed focusing on internal communication, including a bidirectional and intra-communication between the CHARM-EU alliance and its members, and on

external communication including the local, national, regional and European scope. In each segmentation, internal and external, a series of groups have been identified to better tailor the message to their interests (internal, external). The dissemination target groups include CHARM-EU and TORCH members (internal) students, academics, Business ecosystem and civil society entities, policymakers, media, Research Communities / R&I Organizations, international networks, associate partners and other European University Alliances among others. Communicating and exchanging best practices with these different groups is an essential task to ensure the visibility and the impact of the project.

To make the communication and dissemination strategy more effective, it was important to keep in mind that TORCH outputs were focused on knowledge sharing, innovative skills and methodologies and recommendations (reports, policy briefs for example). The focus on this type of project results helped: i) to define the timeline and the roadmap of the different actions to be taken, ii) initially decide to focus more on the communication tasks and iii) once published the results, address the efforts on their dissemination and exploitation.

Therefore, at first the TORCH Communication and Dissemination strategy was aimed at communicating and informing about the project' ideas and goals to a broad audience. Key messages were design to reach out to academics, business, and society as a whole. During this stage, the objective was to answer the *Who, what, How and Why* questions to ensure that the message is being transferred in a clear and effective way. Once the outputs started to come out from other work packages the communication and dissemination group started to produce different materials to disseminate and exploit these results properly.

2. TORCH EVENTS

This section presents an overview of the main events organized during the second phase of the Project, divided into two major categories: the TORCH Annual Forums; and any events associated with the diverse Pilots and Action Plans.

2.1. TORCH Annual Forums

2nd Open Forum

Sharing Common R&I Policies and Strategies: Strengthening Collaboration Towards a Transformational Approach (Dublin, March 8, 2023).

The second TORCH Open Forum was held on March 8, 2023, hosted by Trinity College Dublin and was addressed to multiple relevant collectives: university Rectors and Vice Rectors, academic and technical staff, as well as any actors engaged in R&I activities and universities' collaboration. It was also relevant for policymakers, as the European Commission's perspective was included. More than 120 participants attended the different sessions (online and/or in person), in which 61 chairs, speakers and rapporteurs took part representing several European and national organizations as well as 15 European University Alliances.

Bringing together representatives of diverse national and international actors within the European research and innovation landscape, the event provided an excellent opportunity to discuss challenges and progress regarding some of the key R&I areas. The event encouraged reflection on the Alliance's shared common R&I policies and strategies, discussed pioneering initiatives of universities regarding transdisciplinary and challenge-driven research, and provided the possibility to share results and achievements related to five key R&I areas:

1. Working towards reforming research assessment.
2. Fostering equality, diversity and inclusivity.
3. Championing Open Science.
4. Promoting inter/transdisciplinary research driven by societal challenges.
5. Intensifying R&I Cooperation Between Universities.

The Communication and Dissemination group disseminated this event with the support of a dedicated webpage¹, where the audience could find the detailed programme². A dedicated poster

¹ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch-2nd-annual-forum-march-2023>

² See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch-annual-forum-2023-programme>

was also created to promote the event (Figure 2). After the event, a post-event article³ was published explaining the main topics and conclusions. More detailed information can be found in the Final Report⁴ of the event, including all the presentations showed during the Forum. In order to boost engagement, the event was also disseminated in our social media channels (pre, during, and post meeting). An example is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 2. Second TORCH Annual Forum poster.

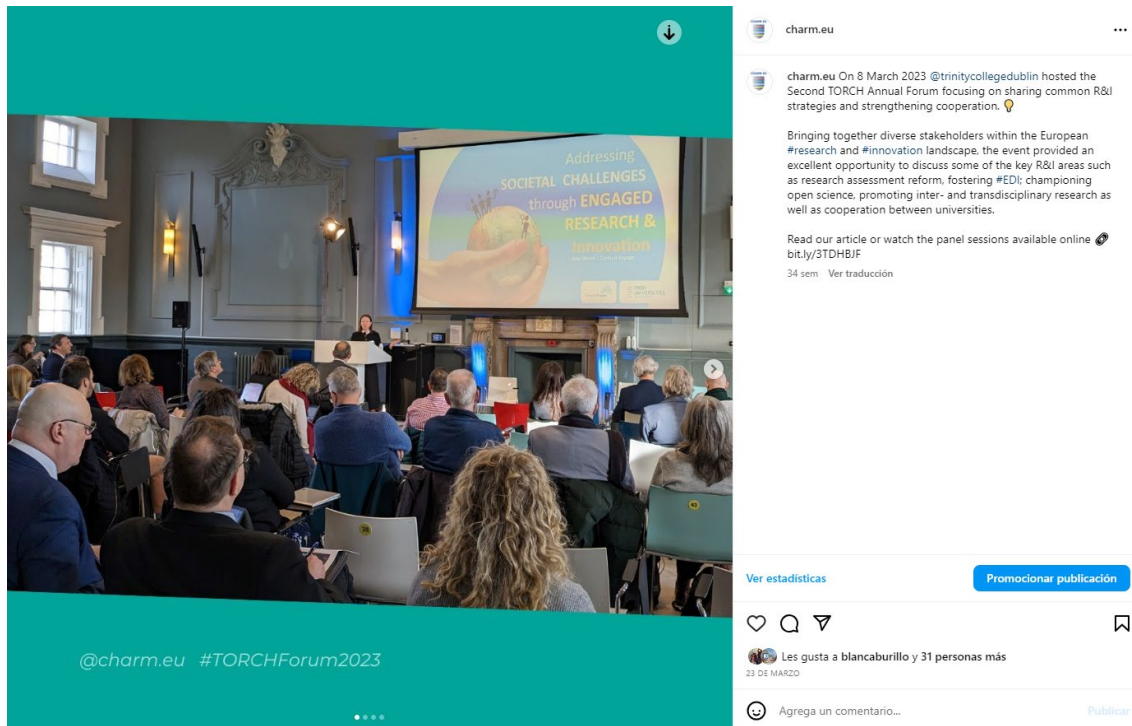


Figure 3. Example of social media post to boost engagement.

³ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/sharing-strategies-and-strengthening-cooperation-towards-future-ri>

⁴ Deliverable D11.1 - Annual Open Forum Report 2, available at <https://www.charm-eu.eu/sites/default/files/2023-03/D11.1%20-%20Annual%20Open%20Forum%202%20Report.pdf>

2nd Internal Forum⁵

The second Annual Internal Forum held in Dublin on March 7, was also hosted by Trinity College Dublin, with 31 participants (28 in-person, three online), including the Project Management Team and members of Work Packages 8-9. The meeting facilitated a recap process within the project, and provided an opportunity to review the tasks already carried out during TORCH's analysis stage (WPs3-7) and how these were to be capitalized to establish and implement the strategies/policies common framework.

The TORCH workplan for 2023 was laid out and discussed, mainly focused on:

- Developing a common policies/strategies framework centered in five key areas (WP8).
- Executing seven Pilots and drafting five Action Plans (WP9).
- Supporting the development of the six TORCH Research Challenges for their implementation as research projects.

Future potential options to develop the CHARM-EU's R&I dimension further, beyond the TORCH Project, were also discussed.

3rd Open Forum

Science with and for Society in European Universities Alliances: Cross-Alliances Forum 2023 (Brussels, November 30 and December 1, 2023).

The Cross-Alliances Forum was held on 30 November – 1 December 2023, at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Brussels (on-site with hybrid option for plenary sessions). The forum served as a platform to commemorate the achievements of completed and ongoing R&I projects within the European Universities Alliances. Participants will actively engage in discussions pertaining to the future course and sustainable support for Alliances in their R&I domains.

Complete information about the event can be found in its dedicated webpage⁶ and full report⁷.

TORCH's WP11 (Communication and Dissemination) led the Organizing Committee of this event. In total, 32 European Universities Alliances actively participated (11 of which were part of the Organizing Committee). The audience invited to the event were representatives of the FOREU1 and FOREU2 Alliances, European Commission officials and external stakeholders. The different sessions were distributed among the alliances from the Organizing Committee. CHARM-EU coordinated the plenary session "Looking to the Future: The European Universities Alliances R&I Dimension", the

⁵ A full report can be found in deliverable D2.1 - Second Annual Internal Forum (confidential report).

⁶ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/science-and-society-european-universities-alliances-0>

⁷ Deliverable D11.3 - Annual Forum 3 Report, available at <https://www.charm-eu.eu/sites/default/files/2023-12/D11.3%20-%20Annual%20Open%20Forum%203%20Report.pdf>

roundtable on “Research Ethics & Integrity: The Role of New Technologies” and the poster session. More detailed information about these sessions can be found on the programme⁸ of the event. During the poster session, CHARM-EU presented the poster “TORCH Common Science Agenda: Driving Collaboration and Transdisciplinary Research to Address Global Sustainability Challenges”⁹. CHARM-EU also led the creation of seven posters to map the Alliances R&I best practices linked to the SwafS projects’ transformational modules.¹⁰

The communication and dissemination of the Cross-Alliances Forum was a joint effort involving all the Alliances part of the Organizing Committee (or invited to the conference) under TORCH coordination.

The event was disseminated internally and via social media channels by each of the organizing Alliances, featured also in the CHARM-EU Newsletter (October 2023 edition)¹¹ and CHARM-EU social media channels¹² (an example shown in Figure 4). The first post of the event was coordinated among most of the participant alliances in the forum, then each Alliance posted at their convenience (Figure 5). Additionally, specific visual materials were created for enhancing the promotion of the event (Figure 6).

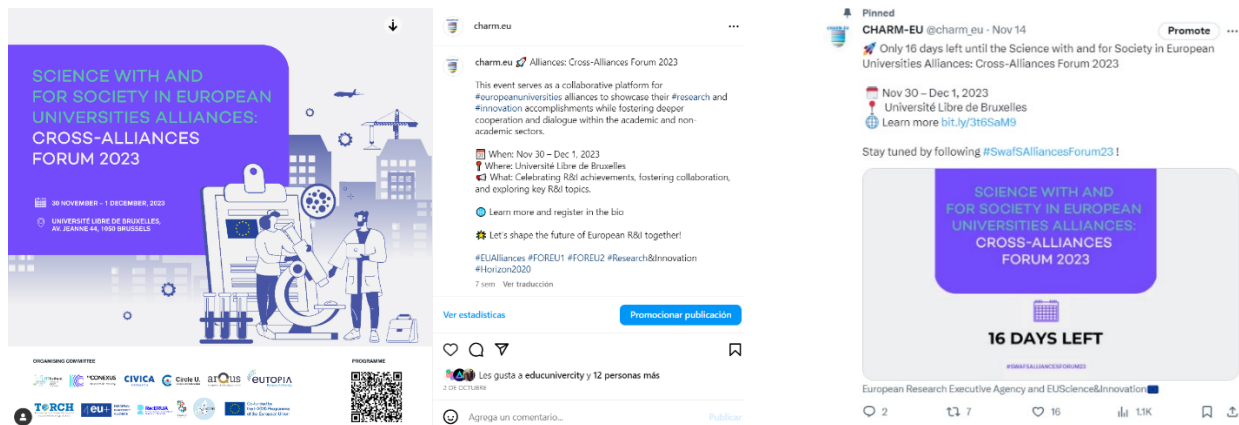


Figure 4. Examples of social media dissemination post.

⁸ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/science-and-society-european-universities-alliances-programme>

⁹ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/sites/default/files/2023-11/TORCHcommonsienceagenda-poster2023%20FINAL.pdf>

¹⁰ See [Mapping the Alliances R&I best practices](#)

¹¹ See <https://mailchi.mp/charm-eu/newsletter-december-02-13557893?e=e09feb6512>

¹² Twitter: https://twitter.com/charm_eu/status/1724457690410144229;

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=750950653696611&set=pb.100063450506712.-2207520000&type=3>;

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cx5pWHplwJl/>;

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7114625519404335104>



Figure 5. Examples of social media dissemination post.



Figure 6. Cross-Alliances Forum 2023 poster.

Table 1. Links to articles and posts about the Science with and for Society in European Universities Alliances: Cross-Alliances Forum 2023

Date / Channel	Articles	Twitter	LinkedIn	Facebook	Instagram
2023.10.02		Twitter post n.1	LinkedIn post n.1	Facebook post n.1	Instagram post n.1
2023.11.14.		Twitter post n.2	LinkedIn post n.2	Facebook post n.2	Instagram post n.2
2023.11.20					Instagram story
2023.11.30		Twitter thread Day 1			
2023.12.01		Twitter thread Day 2			
2023.12.14	Post-event article	Twitter post n.3	LinkedIn post n.3	Facebook post n.3	Instagram post n.3

3rd Internal Forum¹³

Budapest, October 24-25, 2023

The third TORCH Annual Internal Forum was held in Budapest on October 24-25, hosted by Eötvös Loránd University, with 39 participants (31 in-person, eight online), including the Project Management Team, members of Work Packages 8-9, and the Vice Rectors Committee. The meeting facilitated a recap process within the project, and provided an opportunity to review the tasks already carried out during TORCH's second phase (WP2, WP8, WP9, WP11), along with the final preparations regarding the Project's final deliverables. In addition, an open discussion on barriers, main recommendations, and next steps to develop the CHARM-EU R&I dimension was carried out, including senior management of the partners' universities.

This event was restricted to Project staff and therefore not open to members outside TORCH. However, the meeting and its main conclusions were disseminated in CHARM-EU social media channels¹⁴ (an example shown in Figure 6), as well as in a post-event article¹⁵ together with the 2nd Open Science Day.



Figure 7. Example of social media dissemination post.

¹³ A full report can be found in deliverable D2.2 - Third Annual Internal Forum (confidential report).

¹⁴ LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7123240710815760385>;

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/charmeuropeanuniversity/posts/pfbid0X3VJYk1JwgHWfdotR8KFGftM2sMSXuQeg9nPGE2sibCaJheg4HuCPwrvuyLbGLuI>;

Twitter: https://twitter.com/charm_eu/status/1716757152088424517;

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CzLuOslt_JM/?img_index=1

¹⁵ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/2nd-charm-eu-open-science-day-and-3rd-torch-internal-forum-held-successfully>

2.2. Events Linked to Pilot Actions¹⁶

CHARM-EU Open Science Days

Online, June 9 and October 26, 2023

Championing knowledge circulation and dissemination via Open Science was a cornerstone of TORCH. Based on the institutional Open Science Survey and Gap Analysis¹⁷ carried out in the first phase of the project, a central method to make Open Science practices mainstream is by offering skills training for all areas of Open Science and tailoring it to groups of staff and students. Therefore, TORCH organized two Open Science Days focusing on the promotion of Open Science culture and practices within partner institutions.

TORCH hosted the **first CHARM-EU Open Science Day** on June 9, 2023 in an online format. The one-day event featured academics from partner universities sharing their expertise in various Open Science domains, including next-generation metrics, transparency, FAIR data management, research integrity, and Citizen Science, targeting university leaders, researchers, educators, and PhD students (Figure 7). The morning session delved into leadership's role in successfully mainstreaming Open Science, while the afternoon session focused on providing practical knowledge to researchers and staff members. This first Open Science Day was promoted with the support of an article and webpage¹⁸ where the audience could find the detailed programme. The event was also promoted in the newsletter and via the social media channels of the Alliance as well as via internal channels of partner universities, reaching a wide audience from 14 countries within and beyond Europe. All the materials used during the sessions were made publicly available on the webpage of the event.



Figure 8. First CHARM-EU Open Science Day poster.

¹⁶ A complete report on the Pilots can be found in deliverable D9.5 - Pilot Final Report, available at <https://www.charm-eu.eu/sites/default/files/2023-12/D9.5%20-%20Pilot%20Final%20Report.pdf>

¹⁷ Deliverable D6.1 - Comparative CHARM-EU Open Science Report (confidential report).

¹⁸ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/charm-eu-open-science-day-0>

The **Second CHARM-EU Open Science Day**, held in Budapest in hybrid format on October 26, 2023, brought together presenters and participants from across Europe to explore institutional support mechanisms and Open Access publishing strategies (Figure 8). The morning sessions started with experience-sharing on the promotion of Open Science and setting up a Research Data Space at the University of Montpellier, then colleagues from the Utrecht University Library engaged participants in an interactive workshop discussing how Open Science can be applied throughout the entire research workflow. The afternoon sessions focused on Open Access publishing and demonstrated several tools to choose licenses for green OA publications and research data. Altogether, seven speakers from four CHARM-EU partner institutions engaged with 40 in-person and 30 online participants. Similarly to the first Open Science Day, the second event also had its own promotion article¹⁹ and webpage²⁰ with the detailed programme, and the presentations from the sessions were made available there subsequently. The event was promoted via both Alliance-level and institutional level communication channels with a special emphasis on internal mailing lists to reach a considerable number of PhD students (approximately 50% of the participants). The Communication and Dissemination Work Package also created a post-event article²¹.



Figure 9. Second CHARM-EU Open Science Day poster.

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 (Table 1). CHARM-EU's social media channels were also used to further promote the event (examples shown in Figure 9), as well as institutional newsletters, the CHARM-EU newsletter, and internal mailing lists. TORCH PMs and WP11 communication staff helped in coordinating dissemination.

¹⁹ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/join-second-charm-eu-open-science-day-build-os-culture-and-skills>

²⁰ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/second-charm-eu-open-science-day-0>

²¹ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/index.php/2nd-charm-eu-open-science-day-and-3rd-torch-internal-forum-held-successfully>

Table 2. Links to articles and posts advertising the CHARM-EU Open Science Days.

Date / Channel	Articles	Twitter	LinkedIn	Facebook	Instagram
2023.05.19.	1st Open Science Day	Twitter post n.1	LinkedIn post n.1	Facebook post n.1 (2023.05.31.)	Instagram post n.1 (2023.05.31.)
2023.06.07.		Twitter post n.2	LinkedIn post n.2		
2023.09.26.	2nd Open Science Day	Twitter post n.3		Facebook post n.2	Instagram post n.2
2023.10.18.		Twitter post n.4	LinkedIn post n.3	Facebook post n.3	
2023.10.26.		Twitter tread			
2023.11.03.		Twitter post n.6	LinkedIn post n.4	Facebook post n.4	Instagram post n.3

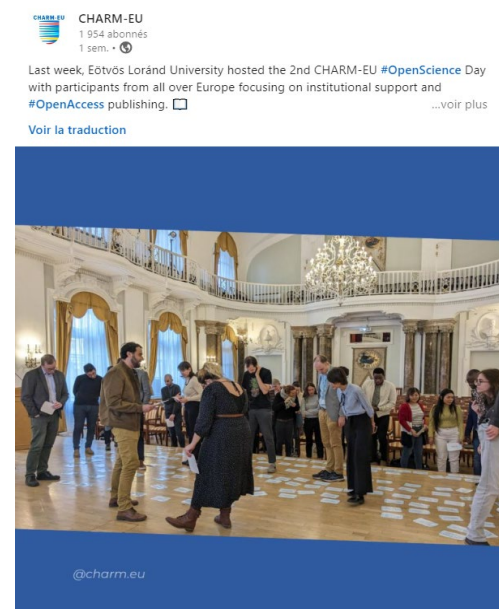
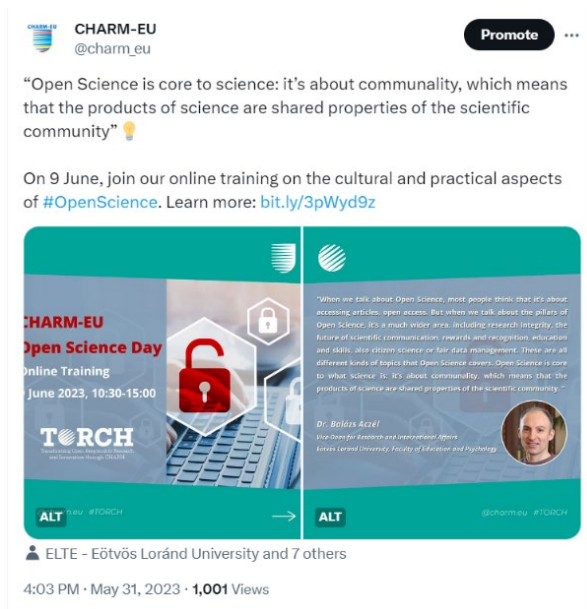


Figure 10. Examples of social media promotion posts.

Research Support Offices meeting

Budapest, June 29, 2023

As part on the Pilot Actions TORCH carried out during 2023, representatives of CHARM-EU partners' Research Support Offices met at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest to share experiences and discuss the possibilities to design a joint support strategy for common research projects. Colleagues coming from the partner universities presented their respective units and research support structures, shared their experiences on collaboration with other offices, participated in a training

session on inter- and transdisciplinary research management as well as in several roundtables focusing on the challenges of cooperation with different ITD stakeholders.



Figure 11. Research Support offices meeting at ELTE.

The dissemination of this event was mostly carried out internally to reach the relevant colleagues at each partner university, however, WP11 reported on the event in several social media posts²² to update the TORCH audience on the ongoing pilot actions. The event was also part of the article²³ presenting the Pilot Year of TORCH.

CHARM-EU R&I Days

Building Multidisciplinary Research Proposals: A Co-Creation Workshop to Address the Water Global Challenges (Barcelona, October 30 and 31, 2023)

As part of its Pilots, TORCH organized the first CHARM-EU R&I Days in the form of a co-creation workshop, partnering with two esteemed research centres: the UB Water Research Institute (IdRA) and Montpellier's UNESCO International Center for Interdisciplinary Research on Water Systems Dynamics.

The first edition of the CHARM-EU R&I Days provided a platform to further develop the collaborative networks fostered by TORCH. The in-person event was organized on October 30 and 31, 2023 at the University of Barcelona and welcomed researchers with diverse disciplinary backgrounds and expertise from the partner universities, external stakeholders including industry professionals,

²² Twitter: https://twitter.com/charm_eu/status/1674381874435694592;

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/charmeu_during-the-last-2-days-representatives-of-activity-7080542978418589696-MbcS?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

²³ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch-pilot-actions-service-testing-and-long-term-collaboration> and <https://www.charm-eu.eu/action-plans-and-pilots>

policymakers, business representatives and was open to anyone interested in addressing the water-related global challenges of the present and future (Figure 11).



Figure 12. CHARM-EU R&I Days co-creation workshop at UB.

The dissemination of the event was carried out both internally at partner universities as well as on CHARM-EU channels with all information available on the dedicated webpage²⁴ of the event, a promotion article²⁵ and appearance in the CHARM-EU Newsletter (July 2023 edition)²⁶ as well as on the social media channels of the Alliance²⁷. The Communication and Dissemination Work Package published a post-event article²⁸ and also disseminated it via CHARM-EU Social Media²⁹ (an example shown in Figure 12).

²⁴ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/charm-eu-ri-days-2023-1st-edition>

²⁵ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/waterworks-multidisciplinary-response-global-challenge>

²⁶ See <https://mailchi.mp/charm-eu/newsletter-december-02-13547945?e=%5bUNI%5d>

²⁷ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CwP8Ov_IJSE/;

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=727220976069579&set=pb.100063450506712.-2207520000&type=3>

²⁸ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/diving-water-related-challenges>

²⁹ LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7127233615645581312;>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/charm_eu/status/1721467900970586372;

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/CzTO4Jftq3/?img_index=1



Figure 13. Example of social media promotion posts.

Citizen Science Training

Barcelona, November 6, 2023

A certified training programme on Citizen Science was designed and implemented at UB, including the organization of an opening event with UB leadership, programme organizers and teachers, relevant stakeholders, citizen science research groups, and students³⁰ (Figure 13). Part of the training materials are to be translated into English and shared with the Alliance partners.

Dissemination of the event was carried out through UB's internal channels and via CHARM-EU social media³¹. A post-event article on the experience was also published³².

³⁰ See <https://www.ub.edu/idp/web/es/node/4535> (in Catalan)

³¹ Twitter: https://twitter.com/charm_eu/status/1710943472872575175

³² See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/citizen-science-training-initiatives-european-universities>



Figure 14. Citizen Science training opening act at UB.

Gender and Sex in Research and Innovation: a St Brigid’s Day Event ³³

Dublin, 1 February 2023

The event was originally conceived as part of the European Researchers’ Night initiative but was expanded to encompass a more comprehensive exploration of the topic. The event featured a distinguished panel comprising Professor Cliona O’Farrelly, Professor Gillian Wylie, and Professor Brian Caulfield, with Patrick Lansley chairing the discussion. Dr. Shiel presented findings from the TORCH project, highlighting gender-related policies across CHARM-EU institutions and underscoring a focus on cisgender women academics, leaving gaps in support for gender minorities.

European Researchers’ Night

Dublin, September 29, 2023

European Researchers’ Night is a Europe-wide initiative, where people come together to celebrate and learn about research. It has run annually since 2005 and CHARM-EU and TORCH (Trinity College Dublin) has participated each year since 2013. This night provides a unique opportunity for researchers and the public to interact with each other, and to bring research to a wider audience. Once again in 2023, and in partnership with our colleagues in ADAPT, RCSI, and St James’s Hospital, TORCH curated a programme designed to engage with the public.

The Communication and Dissemination Work Package created a video with the best moments from the European Researchers’ Night activity³⁴.

³³ Article in the Trinity College Dublin website: <https://www.tcd.ie/research/researchmatters/st-brigid.php>

³⁴ See <https://www.instagram.com/p/CxyTUAlt5qb/>

3. DISSEMINATION ARTICLES

This section outlines the main dissemination pieces and publications produced within TORCH.

3.1. Dissemination Articles

TORCH Pilot Actions at the service of testing and long-term collaboration³⁵

CHARM-EU partners carried out pilots throughout 2023 to test and refine the implementation of the first joint strategies developed within TORCH. These pilots focus on areas such as open science, citizen science, and research support. The purpose of the pilots was to contribute to the fine-tuning of strategies and to potentially bridge CHARM-EU's first common R&I efforts to future collaborations. The implementation of the pilots started in March 2023. The pilots are helping to lay the foundations for the future collaboration of the founding members and the joining institutions in the field of research and innovation. Their dissemination was done via social media (an example shown in Figure 14) and website.

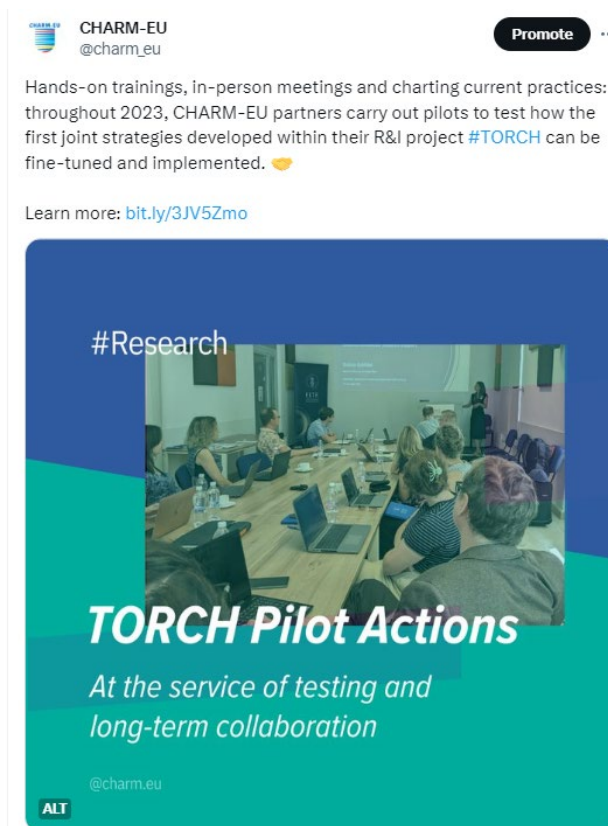


Figure 15. Example of dissemination via social media.

³⁵ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch-pilot-actions-service-testing-and-long-term-collaboration>

TORCH best practices featured in the REA progress report on alliance's R&I projects³⁶

The European Research Executive Agency (REA) released a report evaluating the progress of 17 European University alliances funded by Horizon 2020.

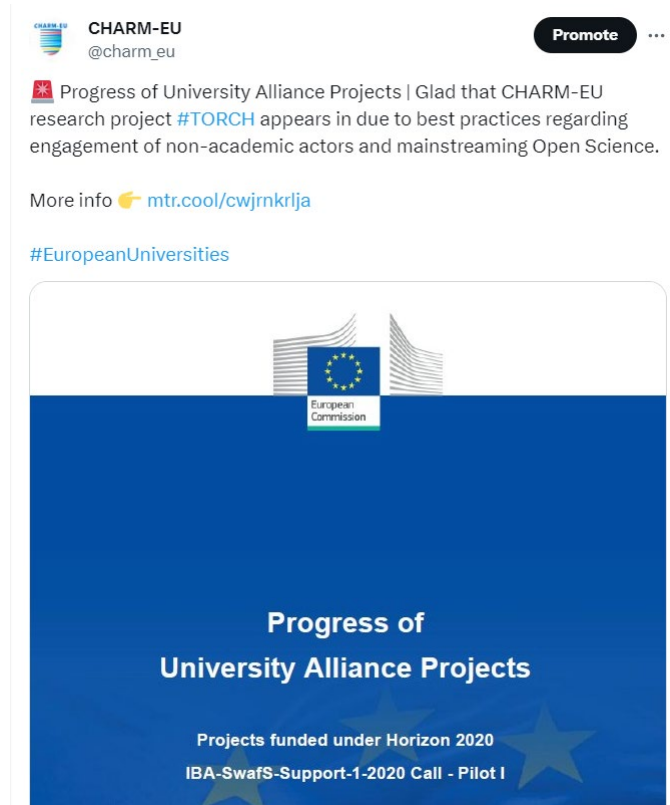


Figure 16. Example of dissemination via social media

The report also showcased exemplary practices from CHARM-EU's TORCH initiative in the topics of engagements of non-academic actors, mainstreaming Open Science, developing a common R&I agenda and the promotion of equality.

TORCH Developed Action List to Promote Open Science Practices³⁷

CHARM-EU's TORCH project has promoted Open Science practices by analyzing policies and practices among partner universities. The project has identified strengths and weaknesses in Open Science practices and developed a list of recommendations to further improve and propagate Open Science. An interactive graphic was created about the pillars of open science where the audience

³⁶ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch-best-practices-featured-rea-progress-report-alliances-ri-projects>

³⁷ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch-developed-action-list-promote-open-science-practices>

can know more about TORCH recommendations on best practices and how to promote Open Science.

Collaborating with enterprises for research and technology transfer and detecting innovation within CHARM-EU³⁸

An analysis undertaken by TORCH in collaboration with the five CHARM-EU partner universities goes through the strategies and best practices employed by universities to forge research collaborations with non-academic stakeholders, particularly enterprises. The study also presents the techniques used by universities to identify innovation emerging from their research teams.

Joint Alliance Statement on the Investment Pathway³⁹

TORCH published on the website the joint statement on the Investment Pathway signed by 41 European Universities Alliances where they urge Member States to establish a holistic and sustainable long-term funding to foster transnational cooperation across all their missions. This sustainable funding should integrate all university missions, including education, research, innovation and transfer to society, and combine resources from various programs, and support the development of globally competitive European University Alliances.

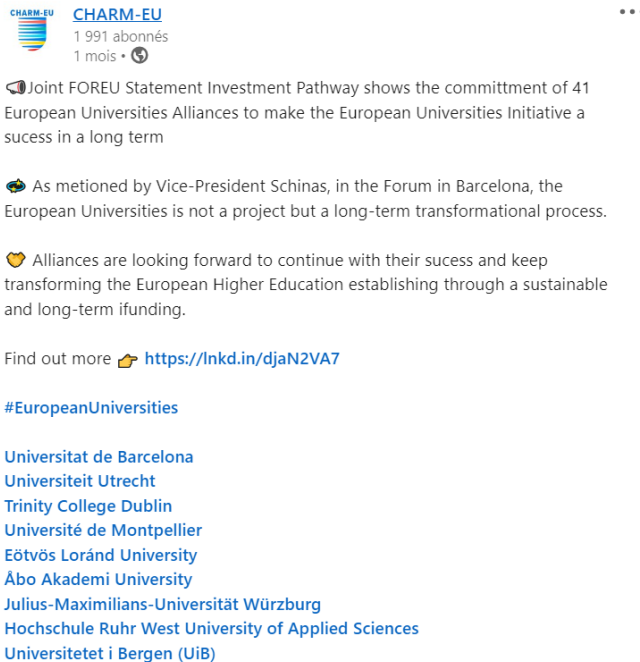


Figure 17. Example of dissemination via social media.

³⁸ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/collaborating-enterprises-research-and-technology-transfer-and-detecting-innovation-within-charm-eu>

³⁹ See https://www.charm-eu.eu/system/files/2023-10/JointFOREUstatement_InvestmentPathway.pdf

The art of transdisciplinary knowledge co-production⁴⁰

The article about the study on public engagement and transdisciplinary science practices at CHARM-EU partner universities was published in the CHARM-EU website as well as a more detailed article on the Utrecht University News Release⁴¹.

CHARM-EU: A Challenge-driven and Research-based Universities Alliance⁴²

The article “CHARM-EU: A Challenge-driven and Research-based Universities Alliance” in the website of the project Citizen Science Now, an Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Adult Education, co-funded by the European Commission for two years (2022-2023). This project contributes to the efforts in maximizing the potential of collaborative innovation by providing network, content and tools to adult citizens to build capacity through digital means.

Joint research proposal developed under TORCH wins grant⁴³

CHARM-EU R&I project, ClimEx-PE, led by Professor Judit Mádl-Szőnyi from Eötvös Loránd University, has secured funding under Horizon Europe's Water4All call. The project focuses on a nature-based solution to address the impact of extreme climate events and ensure water supplies. ClimEx-PE aims to fill knowledge gaps in groundwater flow systems, surface water bodies, and Managed Aquifer Recharge. The innovative proposal, chosen among 27 winning projects from over 200 submissions, exemplifies CHARM-EU's collaborative success in securing EU funding.

Citizen Science Training Initiatives in European Universities⁴⁴

The article shows the emphasis on Citizen Science training initiatives in European universities, spotlighting the University of Barcelona's institutional training pilot within the TORCH Project. The UB's comprehensive training program addresses the challenge of providing professional scientists with essential skills for Citizen Science projects.

⁴⁰ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/art-transdisciplinary-knowledge-co-production>

⁴¹ See <https://www.uu.nl/en/news/how-can-utrecht-university-become-a-transdisciplinary-institution-of-the-future>

⁴² See <https://citizenscience-now.org/index.php/news-2023-04-charm-eu-a-challenge-driven-and-research-based-universities-alliance/>

⁴³ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/joint-research-proposal-developed-under-torch-wins-grant>

⁴⁴ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/citizen-science-training-initiatives-european-universities>

4. EXTERNAL NETWORKS AND CONNECTIONS

CHARM-EU, as European University Alliance, actively participates in several networks that have been used to strengthen the TORCH activity and the collaboration with other Alliances at the European and the national level.

First through FOR-EU, as an active member from the beginning, proposing and leading joint dissemination activities together with the other alliances (initially with FOR-EU1 but later on also with FOR-EU2). CHARM-EU lead the FOR-EU1 subgroup on Research and Innovation since 2022.

At the national level, CHARM-EU is leading, via UB, the Spanish Universities in European Alliances Group, and leading actions with the relevant Spanish Ministry(s). One example is the action with the Spanish Science and Innovation Ministry to support the ERA Action 13. Other partners are participating in meetings at the national level with their respective Ministries (France, The Netherlands, Hungary, Ireland, Germany, Finland).

TORCH also participated in a series of external events, mainly giving presentations about the project to a broad audience. The following list highlights the events in which TORCH has been an active participant:

2nd Open Forum

Sharing Common R&I Policies and Strategies: Strengthening Collaboration Towards a Transformational Approach (Dublin, March 8, 2023).

The meeting was addressed to multiple relevant collectives: university Rectors and Vice Rectors, academic and technical staff, as well as any actors engaged in R&I activities and universities' collaboration. It was also relevant for policymakers, as the European Commission's perspective was included. More than 120 participants attended the different sessions (online and/or in person), in which 61 chairs, speakers and rapporteurs took part representing several European and national organizations (Irish Universities Association; Science Europe; Coimbra Group; European University Association; EC DG Research & Innovation; Irish Health Research Board) as wells as 15 European University Alliances.

3rd Open Forum

Science with and for Society in European Universities Alliances: Cross-Alliances Forum 2023 (Brussels, November 30 and December 1, 2023).

During the Cross-Alliances Forum 2023, more than 230 people attended the different sessions that were held from Thursday 30th November to Friday 1st December. Among the attendees, we had more than 160 representatives from 37 European Universities Alliances, more than 15 representatives from Member States, more than 40 from external stakeholders such as EUA, The Guild, Coimbra Group, Centre for Unusual Collaborations, etc. and more than 20 representatives from the European Commission. The first day, Marc Tachelet, Director of European Research

Executive Agency, was present and was part of the keynote session. The second day, Minna Wilkki, Head of Department at European Research Executive Agency was present and delivered her speech during the closing session of the event.

The attendance of multiple stakeholders facilitated the exchange of good practices, ideas, creating a unique networking opportunity among the European R&I ecosystem that surrounds the European Universities Alliances.

EARMA Conference⁴⁵

Prague, April 23 and 24, 2023

Doris Alexander, Director of European Engagement at Trinity College Dublin, was a keynote speaker about the future of research management.

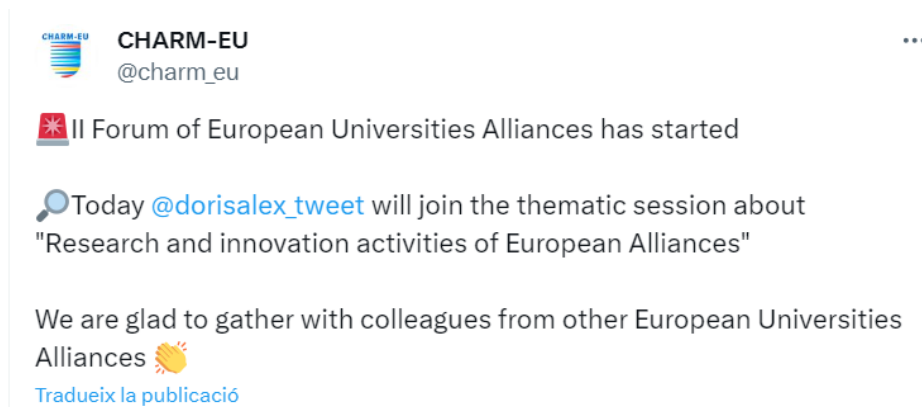


Figure 18. Example of dissemination via social media.

ASTP Annual Conference 2023⁴⁶

Tallinn, 24 to 26 May

This conference brought together over 300 knowledge transfer and technology transfer professionals, establishing a forum for in-depth exploration of the latest challenges, projects, and opportunities shaping the community. The TORCH members present in this conference were Carme Verdaguer (UB), Lurdes Jordi (UB), Daniel Magyar (ELTE), Tessa Scharringhausen (UU), Charlotte Tourette (UM), Clara Domeyne (UM).

⁴⁵ See <https://earma.org/conferences/earma-conference-prague-2023-/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/charm_eu/status/1702241960625381535

⁴⁶ Conference overview: <https://www.astp4kt.eu/about-us/kt-news/annual-conference-2023.html>

CIVICA Research Management in European Alliances: Fostering Institutional Transformation⁴⁷

Milan, May 25, 2023

The European Universities Alliances CIVICA invited TORCH Project Manager, Jaime Llorca, at their event on “Research Management in European Alliances: Fostering Institutional Transformation” to talk in the panel session on how to build a research management network across universities and cultures. Jaime Llorca shared the stage with Catherine de Vries, Dean for International Affairs Moderator Elena Del Giorgio (4EU+), Eleonora Zuolo (EARMA, 4EU+); Daniel Robles Quiñonero (EUt+), Torben Høøck Hansen (4EU+) and Laura Paternoster (ECIU).



Figure 19. Example of dissemination via social media.

TRED conference 2023⁴⁸

Co-creating space for collaborative research and learning to inspire, interact and integrate (Wageningen, June, 12 to 14, 2023)

Assistant professor Dr. Annisa Triyanti (Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University), who also contributed to the TORCH work package on public engagement, presented

⁴⁷ See https://www.civica.eu/fileadmin/PDFs/CIVICA_Research_250523_agenda_at_Bocconi.pdf
Twitter: https://twitter.com/charm_eu/status/1661696157997846528

⁴⁸ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/co-creating-space-collaborative-research-and-learning-join-tred-conference-2023>

about a scoping study on transdisciplinary collaboration with recommendations on how to support it through funding, capacity building and other measures.

II FORUM of European Universities⁴⁹

Barcelona, September 14-15, 2023

Doris Alexander, Director of European Engagement at Trinity College Dublin, chaired the thematic session on “Research and innovation activities of European Universities”.



Figure 20. Example of dissemination via social media.

2023 CHARM-EU Annual Forum “Alliances for Society”⁵⁰

Würzburg, November 7, 2023

During the 2023 CHARM-EU Annual Conference, the TORCH team organised a thematic workshop on “Setting common transdisciplinary research agendas to foster research impact”. In this session, participants explored methods and stakeholders to establish common research agendas within European Universities that respond to their close societal context needs.

Main questions discussed:

⁴⁹ See <https://spanish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/events/forum-of-universities-for-the-future-of-europe/>

⁵⁰ 2023 CHARM-EU Annual Conference “Alliances for Society”: <https://www.charm-eu.eu/charm-eu-annual-conference-2023>

- Which methods can we use to establish common research agendas? Sectorial or General research agendas?
- Which stakeholders should participate in the definition of research agendas?
- How do we introduce general public voice in the process?

The members of the thematic workshop were Sergio Villanueva Baselga, CHARM-EU Director at the UB, as chair, Jaime Llorca, TORCH Project Manager; Anne-Sophie Gresle, Hospital Clinic Barcelona and Gareth O'Neil, Principal Consultant on Open Science, Technopolis Group, as facilitators.



Figure 21. Example of dissemination via social media.

ReSEArch-EU Closing event⁵¹

Cádiz, December 14, 2023

Meritxell Chaves, CHARM-EU Secretary General, participated in the SEA-EU SwafS project final event, joining a panel session with Alliances coordinators on Sustainability and Continuity of Strategic Research Agenda: project capability to prompt institutional changes and transformational initiatives.

⁵¹ See <https://researcheu.sea-eu.org/noticia/research-eu-closing-joint-event/>

5. TORCH AWARDS & OTHERS

5.1. CHARM-EU Open Science Recognition Award

As part of the TORCH Pilot Year, CHARM-EU established the Open Science Recognition Award to recognize individuals who made significant contributions to Open Science. All teachers and researchers from CHARM-EU partner universities were eligible to apply for the award. In the call⁵², all the information about the application was detailed and the winner was announced on October 13, 2023. The winner, Dr. Saskia Stevens, from Utrecht University, received a trip to one of the CHARM-EU partner universities to consult with local experts on strategies and practices for promoting Open Science. An article announcing the winner and describing why his project was selected was created⁵³. This call had a high engagement in social media (Figure 15).

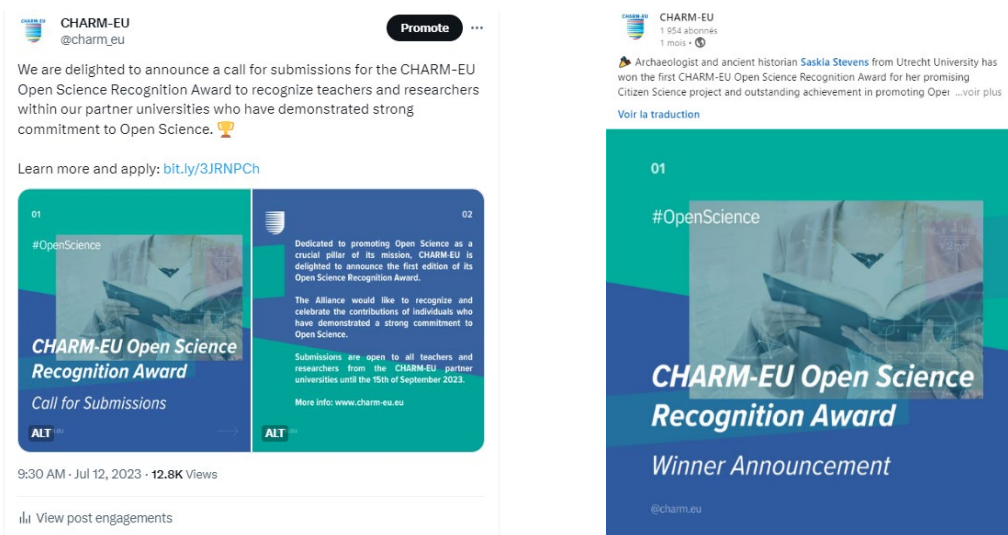


Figure 22. Example of dissemination via social media.

5.2. Other Awards

Athena Swan Award

Trinity College Dublin and two of its schools have been awarded prestigious silver Athena Swan awards for their efforts to advance gender equality. This is a significant achievement for the university and demonstrates its commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion. The award is a testament to the hard work of the university's Athena Swan Committee, the Equality Committee, and EDI and HR colleagues. It is also a reflection of the positive impact of the TORCH project on

⁵² See: <https://www.charm-eu.eu/call-submissions-charm-eu-open-science-recognition-award>

⁵³ See: <https://www.charm-eu.eu/saskia-stevens-wins-charm-eu-open-science-recognition-award>

promoting equality in research. An article⁵⁴ about this award was published, also highlighting the work of TORCH on equality (Figure 16).

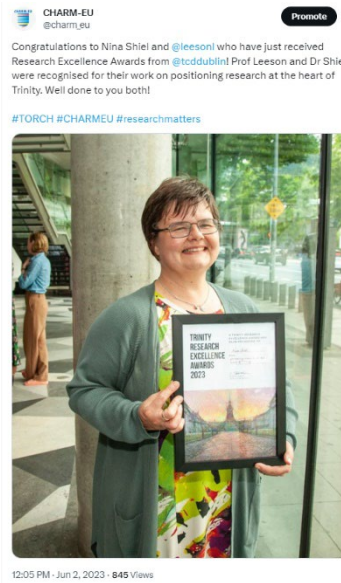


Figure 23. Athena Swan Award, dissemination on social media.

INORMS 2023 Award

Doris Alexander, Director of European Engagement at Trinity College Dublin, won the INORMS 2023 award in Excellence in Leadership Announcement of awardees (Figure 17).



Figure 24. INORMS 2023 Award, dissemination on social media.

⁵⁴ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/trinity-college-dublin-member-charm-eu-wins-silver-institutional-athena-swan-award-advancing-gender>

5.3. Others

Dissemination of the guide of experts to researchers

The CHARM-EU Guide of Experts⁵⁵ is a tool to foster collaboration in multidisciplinary research projects and the creation of new researchers' networks. Researchers from the TORCH and CHARM-EU partner universities can join the guide of experts adding their information on the Entry form, where they can add the following information:

- Their university
- Their academic position
- Their field of research
- The UN SDG field related to their research
- Their teaching keywords

The dissemination of the guide of experts was done with MailChimp. The first mailing was done on the 16th of October 2023. Then, two reminders followed for the researchers that did not joined, on the 24th of October and the 13th November. Currently, the number of researchers that have joined the guide of experts is 175.

Table 3. Analytics from the dissemination of the Guide of Experts via MailChimp

Date / Mailing	Mailing	Reminder n.1	Reminder n.2
Name	TORCH Project - Join the CHARM-EU Guide of Experts	TORCH Project - Reminder: Join the CHARM-EU Guide of Experts	TORCH Project - LAST REMINDER: Join the CHARM-EU Guide of Experts
Date	2023.10.16	2023.10.24	2023.11.13
Recipients	437	385	343
Opened	215	160	143
Clicked	84	58	53

⁵⁵ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch/researcher-finder>

6. TORCH COMMUNICATION & DISSEMINATION CHANNELS: FIRST RESULTS

6.1. Website

As explained in the previous report, TORCH has a specific section at the CHARM-EU Website: <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch>. The aim of this page is to inform about all the TORCH's updates, events, and developments. There is a specific menu and news session dedicated to TORCH.

The CHARM-EU / TORCH website is constantly evolving according to both projects' needs. The latest update was the Pilots and Action Plans⁵⁶ (an overview of all the initiatives carried out during the Project's last phase), and the creation of the Research Support⁵⁷ section where some useful resources are made available:

- A directory⁵⁸ of institutional research support units available for researchers in our universities.
- The CHARM-EU Guide of Experts⁵⁹: A tool to foster collaboration in multidisciplinary research projects and the creation of new researchers' networks.
- The Collaboration Networks App⁶⁰: An interactive tool based on bibliographic analysis of current authorship networks within the Alliance.

The next steps on the website will be to refurbish where the research part will be integrated further into the overall structure of the CHARM-EU website.

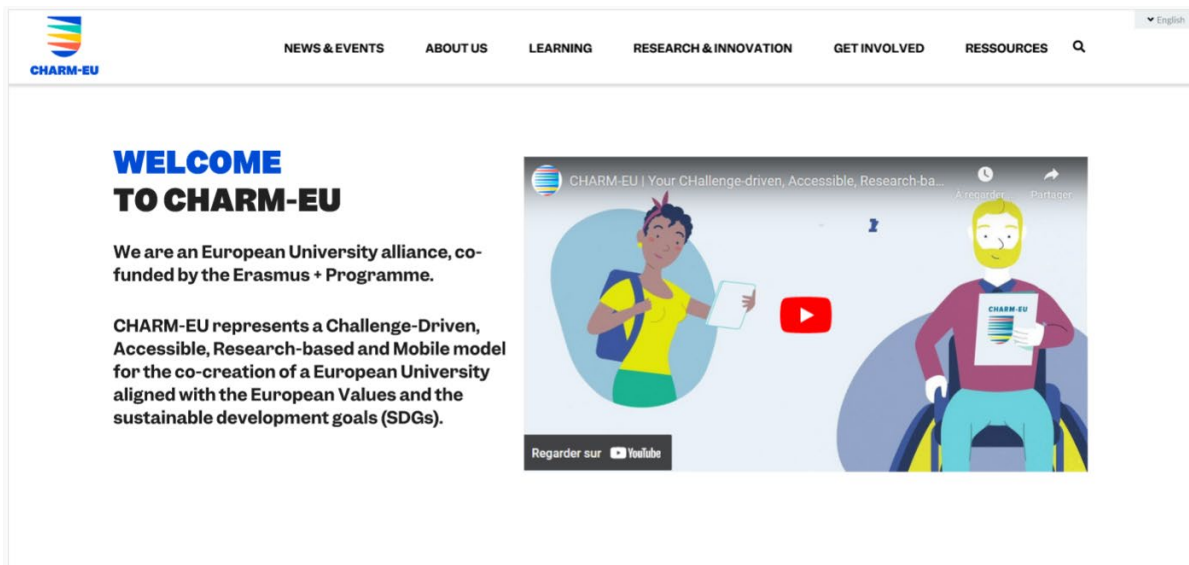


Figure 25. Prototype of the CHARM-EU home page.

⁵⁶ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/action-plans-and-pilots>

⁵⁷ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch/research-support>

⁵⁸ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/contact-points>

⁵⁹ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/torch/researcher-finder>

⁶⁰ See <https://www.charm-eu.eu/collaboration-networks-app>

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Research and innovation

Research projects

Research Support Center

Research news

CHARM-EU represents a Challenge-Driven, Accessible, Research-based and Mobile model for the co-creation of a European University aligned with the European Values and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

HOT TOPICS IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



TORCH R & I, what is it? how to apply?

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Quisque nec condimentum massa, a imperdiet enim. Curabitur metus quam, bibendum id tellus amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Quisque nec condimentum massa, a imperdiet enim. Curabitur metus quam, bibendum id tellus.

Figure 26. Prototype of the Research & Innovation section of the CHARM-EU website.

6.2. Social Media

TORCH uses the established social media channels of CHARM-EU to amplify the visibility of both projects and highlight the symbiotic relationship between research and education. LinkedIn, appealing to academics, businesses, and international organizations, holds the first spot. Twitter, favoured by academics and the business community, serves as the second platform. Then, Instagram is more broadly used by students. Facebook and YouTube are also utilized to reach a wider audience.

LinkedIn

CHARM-EU / TORCH have an official LinkedIn page (www.linkedin.com/company/charm-eu) which includes news, events and important outcomes from TORCH. With 1974 followers, the LinkedIn account had more than 100.18k post impressions since June 2023 and more than 5.8K interactions.

The posts about the 3rd TORCH Internal Forum (October 2023) and the CHARM-EU R&I Days are on the top 10 posts with more reactions.

Twitter

All TORCH news and important outcomes from the project were disseminated in Twitter. In addition, Twitter was the primary channel to live disseminate TORCH events. Currently the CHARM-EU account (@charm_eu) has 1,794 followers. During the last year we had 65.12K impressions on published posts.



Figure 27. Twitter followers during the last 9 months. Source: Metricool Analytics.

Instagram

The CHARM-EU Instagram account (@charm.eu) currently has 1187 followers. In this social media channel, CHARM-EU targets the content to reach the youngest audience, mainly students, universities and other European Universities Alliances. It is the platform where education and research come together by using visual elements.

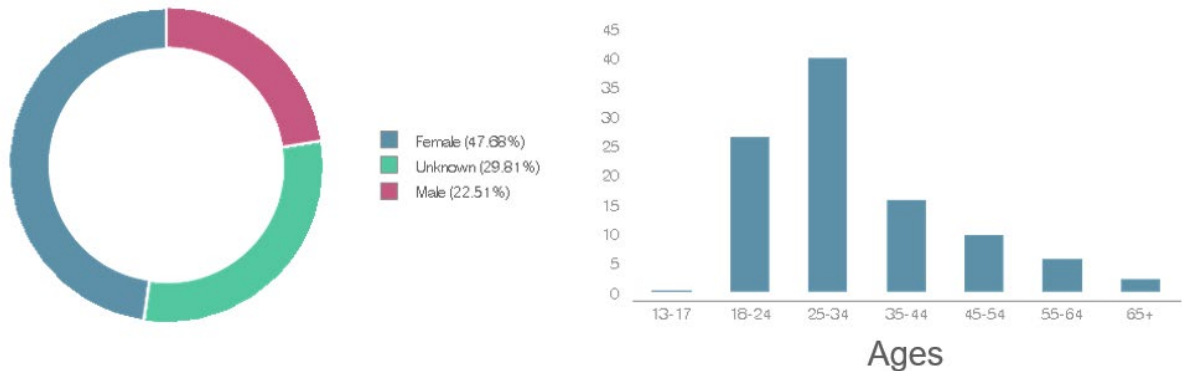


Figure 28. Age & Gender Instagram followers. Source: Metricool Analytics.

Facebook

CHARM-EU / TORCH Facebook (@charm.eu.initiative) is linked to the Instagram account and is mainly used to post the TORCH news. The demographics are also similar as the ones in Instagram.

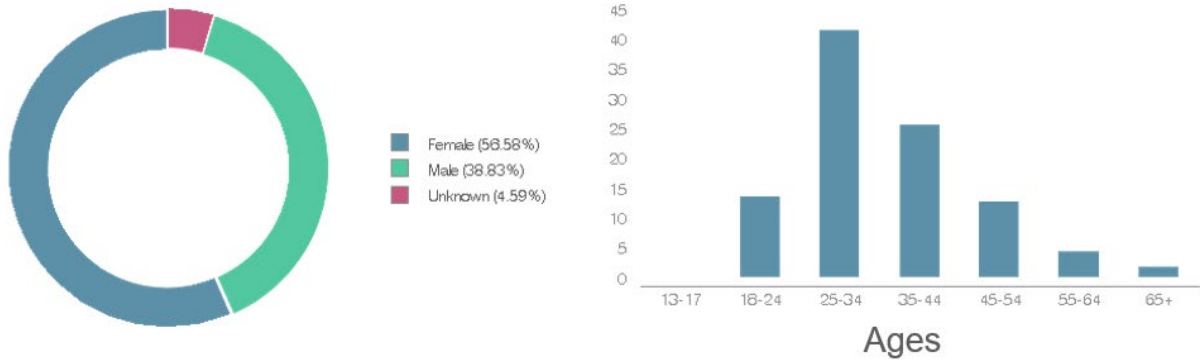


Figure 29. Age & Gender Facebook followers. Source: Metricool Analytics.

YouTube and promotional videos

The YouTube account (<https://www.youtube.com/c/CHARMEuropeanUniversity>) works as a video repository for TORCH. Some of the videos that can be found about TORCH on the CHARM-EU YouTube channel are the two videos of the 2nd Annual Open Forum⁶¹. Since the 3rd Open Forum is a joint event with other alliances, the event will be broadcasted via the streaming section in the YouTube channel of the hosting European Universities Alliance, CIVIS⁶².

External Newsletter

TORCH has a specific session on the CHARM-EU newsletter with main features and actions. With an audience of more than 1100 subscribers, the newsletter is launched according to the needs of both projects. The last launched in October 2023 highlighted the CHARM-EU R&I Days and the Science with and for Society in European Universities: Cross-Alliances Forum 2023 with an opening rate of 951.

The editions are available at the following links:

- October 2023: <https://mailchi.mp/charm-eu/newsletter-december-02-13557893?e=e09feb6512>
- July 2023: [https://mailchi.mp/charm-eu/newsletter-december-02-13547945?e=\[UNIQID\]](https://mailchi.mp/charm-eu/newsletter-december-02-13547945?e=[UNIQID])
- February 2023: <https://mailchi.mp/charm-eu/newsletter-december-02-13514641?e=ae73224d0e>

⁶¹ Morning sessions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEOyNFJ0a9s>

Afternoon sessions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmWCpBGJ9P0>

⁶² CIVIS YouTube streaming channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@civisauropeancivicunivers726/streams>

- December 2022: <https://mailchi.mp/charm-eu/newsletter-december-02-2022>
- October 2022: <https://mailchi.mp/charm-eu/newsletter-october-12273000>
- July 2022: <https://mailchi.mp/charm-eu/newsletter-july-2022>

Podcast

TORCH innovative methodological approach towards a Common Science Agenda (July 15, 2022)⁶³

In this podcast episode hosted by Nicole Font from the University of Barcelona, Dr. Andrea Velich and Dr. Albert Diaz discuss the TORCH Common Science Agenda. They explain the participatory process used to select six research challenges for pilot studies, emphasizing the importance of one challenge: 'Preventive Water Sustainable Management of Freshwater resources within a global change frameset.'

From researcher to entrepreneur/CEO: mission possible! (November 21, 2022)⁶⁴

In this CHARM-EU podcast episode, researchers from the University of Montpellier and the University of Barcelona share their experiences in creating academic spin-offs to bring research results to the market. The episode aims to inspire researchers with entrepreneurial aspirations, highlighting the potential for real-world impact and societal change. Aligned with the CHARM-EU R&I dimension's analysis by TORCH, the episode explores strategies and best practices universities use to collaborate with non-academic entities, emphasizing innovation detection within research teams.

⁶³ Article linking to the podcast episode: <https://www.charm-eu.eu/new-podcast-episode-torch-innovative-methodological-approach-towards-common-science-agenda>

⁶⁴ Article linking to the podcast: <https://www.charm-eu.eu/researcher-entrepreneurceo-mission-possible>

7. EVALUATION, LESSONS LEARNED AND NEXT STEPS

The role played by the Communication and Dissemination Work Package in supporting TORCH is evident in its efforts to facilitate collaboration among its partner universities, emphasizing the pursuit of a sustainable future while addressing pressing societal challenges. Within the TORCH initiative, an environment has been cultivated that not only facilitates the initiation of new collaborations but also fosters existing ones. This particular Work Package has worked in tandem with other Work Packages to establish a network that provides a conducive space for researchers to feel at ease and engage in meaningful collaboration.

Our evaluation of TORCH is highly positive. Nevertheless, the tangible success and outcomes arising from these collaborations are expected to only manifest in the medium and long term. In the European landscape, it is crucial to adopt a forward-looking perspective, acknowledging that the process of strengthening collaborations is inherently gradual and demands a significant investment of time. This principle is equally applicable to research outcomes, emphasizing that tangible results may not materialize immediately but are instead progressive and more durable.

In essence, TORCH, supported by the Communication and Dissemination Work Package, is not just focused on immediate outcomes but is committed to fostering a sustained and impactful collaborative environment, recognizing that its results will unfold over time. This strategic approach aligns with the broader vision of creating a resilient network of researchers who contribute meaningfully to the overarching goals of sustainability and societal improvement. One of the most relevant lessons of TORCH is that bottom-up built research partnerships –as those we have fostered– are intrinsically more laborious to create at the beginning, but grow stronger and faster with time and can be scaled further within the Alliance by adding other similarly born partnerships, complementing each other, and merging into a more complex network that can deal with success more challenging aims. As a next step, these lessons can be applied to join forces with similar University Alliances and synergistically grow into a resilient and innovative European research network.