Engaging citizens and society through the ECIU SMART-ER virtual research institute

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Main challenges:
- To generate a shared and empowered vision among stakeholders and researchers.
- To build challenge-based research communities beyond individual projects.
- To implement long-lasting public engagement strategies, structural and stable units at HEI.
- To overcome barriers concerning data protection and research ethics.

Measures taken & Best practices:
- Pilot co-creation
  - 143 participants in the pilot co-creation
- Researchers and technical staff implementing the pilots
  - 53 researchers
- Open collaborative forum
- Mobile App
  - BicZen
  - https://www.biczen.org

Research & Innovation Hub
A digital community connecting ECIU researchers with stakeholders
https://eciu.eu/research

Transformation modules
- Societal Dialogue
- Strong Collaborations
- Resilient Communities
- Circular economy
- Transport & Mobility
- Energy & Sustainability

Goals:
- To integrate and facilitate the engagement of societal stakeholders in all the research activities of the SMART-ER community.
- To build challenge-based research communities beyond individual projects.
- To implement long-lasting public engagement strategies, structural and stable units at HEI.
- To overcome barriers concerning data protection and research ethics.

Cross-cutting issues
- Citizen science
- Public engagement

Challenge-based research
Doing research with partners from industry/business, education, government, civil society and citizens, using the challenges they face in reality to find solutions.

ERA Actions:
- Bring science closer to the citizens
- Knowledge valorisation
- Research assessment

Guidelines for Empowering Inclusive and Equitable Citizen Science
Guidelines and Recommendations for the Implementation of Public Engagement
Guidelines for Empowering Inclusive and Equitable Citizen Science

Research & Innovation Hub
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Join the ECIU’s Community of Citizen Science
Our researchers, stakeholders and citizens, via public, participatory and cross-disciplinary, online platforms, and web-based tools, help to engage in "classic science activities.
https://csinitiative.eu

Disruptive participatory forum designed to move beyond traditional research conferences
- >300 participants from different countries and profiles
- 10% stakeholder representation
- 8.38 rating out of 10 for the overall experience
- 84% of the participants indicated the creation of new collaborations

Public engagement
Doing research with partners from industry/business, education, government, civil society and citizens, using the challenges they face in reality to find solutions.

Public engagement

ECIU’s Citizen Science Community
Mutual learning community supported by an online platform to share resources, data, and projects, and to increase project impact and visibility. This platform helped to initiate the transition towards challenge-based research communities instead of individual projects.

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