

25 May 2023, 14:00 - 15:30 CEST

# How European University Alliances can support citizen science

3rd UNICA  
Eutopia  
Train  
webinar

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## 3rd UNICA – Eutopia Train webinar: How European University Alliances can support citizen science

Promoted by Vrije Universiteit Brussel

25 May 2023 | 14:00 – 15:30 CEST

### PROGRAMME

	<b>Welcome address and interactive session with Mentimeter</b>
14:10 – 14:30	<i>Building citizen science together: why a university alliance is the way to go</i> , by Floor Keersmaekers, PhD, Citizen Science Contact Point, Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Eutopia
14:30 – 15:00	<b>Case studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Challenges in promotion and dissemination of citizen science idea in Poland</i>, by Szymon Andrzejewski, responsible for citizen science tasks in the Train 4EU+ project, University of Warsaw</li><li>• <i>Una Europa Open Educational Resources for Citizen Science</i>, by Ekaterina Smoliakova, Project Manager Una.Resin at European University Una Europa, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne</li><li>• <i>EUTOPIA opens up the implementation of citizen science in urban planning</i>, by Lucija Ažman Momirski, Professor, representing the University of Ljubljana and Eutopia</li></ul>
15:00 – 15:30	<b>Q&amp;A with the audience</b>

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### Biographies of the speakers

 Floor Keersmaekers | Vrije Universiteit Brussel



Floor Keersmaekers is the general coordinator of the Citizen Science Contact Point at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel. The CSCP aims to foster an academic culture in which citizen science is considered as a fully-fledged research method, and to stimulate the number of research projects applying a citizen science approach. To that intent, the CSCP offers trainings, tools and project support to VUB's research community, as well as networking and peer learning opportunities. Floor has a background in science communication, science outreach and community engaged research (via VUB's Science Shop). She holds a PhD in Literary Theory and previously worked in dramaturgy, archiving and project management for an internationally renowned dance company.

*Building citizen science together: why a university alliance is the way to go* - The past few years have known an increasing importance of open science and citizen science in national and international research policies and communities. As the European Citizen Science Association indicates, 'citizen science' is rather an umbrella term than a fixed concept. Also, many who have practiced citizen science can agree that in this approach in particular, no size fits all and every project is shaped by unique, specific circumstances and meets its own challenges. Due to this elusive and, in some aspects, unpredictable nature, the support of citizen science has much to gain by peer learning and sharing experiences within the framework of strong and fruitful networks. The EUTOPIA alliance serves as an excellent illustration of the possibilities and opportunities that arise when researchers, supporting staff and citizen science practitioners join forces and explore common needs and solutions. We are happy to introduce you to the milestones and deliverables that

resulted from our citizen science journey, and to discuss some open questions with our audience.

 Szymon Andrzejewski | University of Warsaw



Szymon Andrzejewski works at University Library of Warsaw, where he is responsible for citizen science tasks in the Train 4EU+ project. Previously, he worked at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling, special unit of University of Warsaw responsible for supercomputing calculations and promotion of Open Science in Poland and in scientific information section at Gdańsk University of Technology, where he encountered idea of Citizen Science for the first time.

Szymon is the creator of the first e-course about Citizen Science in Polish. As part of the Citizen Science Working Group, he is interested in creating interesting educational materials and in developing new projects, for example, a Citizen Science single point of contact. He understands Citizen Science as an idea that engages people for the greater good and which creates one community among scientists and citizens.

*Challenges in promotion and dissemination of citizen science idea in Poland* - Is citizen science an understandable idea for everyone? In countries without a tradition of citizens participation in scientific research it can be challenging to disseminate such an idea. This presentation will focus on barriers that enthusiasts of citizen science can encounter during lobbying activities. These remarks can be a hint for academic staff in countries from new member states. It can also be useful for officials deciding how to support citizen science in new member states in partnerships in new financial perspectives.

 Ekaterina Smoliakova | Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne



Ekaterina Smoliakova is a Project Manager of Una.Resin at the University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne. Una.Resin is a project of the European university Una Europa granted under Horizon 2020 call and aiming at building a common eco-system of research and innovation. As part of her role, she is actively involved in two working groups: Sharing Research Infrastructures and Resources and Strengthening Human Capital. She is also an administrative lead of the Citizen Engagement cluster, the group of experts whose work is focused on enhancing citizen science practices at the alliance

level. She has an extensive experience in International Relations in Higher Education, as well as in managing European projects, including Erasmus+ programs.



*Una Europa Open Educational Resources for Citizen Science* - The Una Europa working group on Citizen Engagement is committed to promoting and strengthening citizen science practices throughout the alliance. To this end, the group has decided to produce Open Education Resources for Citizen Science, featuring interviews with citizen science experts from Una Europa universities. During the interviews, the experts will share their insights on the benefits and impact of citizen science practices, as well as provide valuable tips for other researchers interested in participatory research. Ekaterina Smoliakova, the administrative lead of the group, will explain the origin of this pilot action, the significant challenges it aims to address, and how the chosen format has the potential to unlock the power of European Universities in enhancing citizen science practices.

### Lucija Ažman Momirski | University of Ljubljana



Lucija Ažman Momirski holds the position of associated professor of urban design since 2010 at the University of Ljubljana Faculty of Architecture (UL FA). She served as Vice Dean of science and research at the UL FA from 2005 to 2007 as well as the Chair for technology, computer design, and (urban) management from 2012 to 2018, has been a visiting professor at the TU Delft and University of Zagreb, a visiting assistant professor at the Graz University of Technology and has taught in Italy, Germany, Spain, Liechtenstein, Turkey, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to her teaching, she has received several first prizes and awards in national and international architectural and urban design competitions, led a number of international research and professional projects, published articles, books and chapters in Slovenia and abroad, and edited several publications.

*EUTOPIA opens up the implementation of citizen science in urban planning* - The EUTOPIA Alliance proved to be essential for extending citizen science to disciplines that have not benefited from it so far. By presenting the process and results of the citizen science project WeCount (University of Ljubljana, Horizon 2020) during the EUTOPIA events, we were able to discuss different experiences with citizen science. For example, in some disciplines the term citizen science can not be understood in its direct sense, especially when implemented in the field of arts, but rather as an act of collaboration. Another important question was how to engage citizens in different cultural contexts. When social media do not help to raise awareness of citizen science, university students can become young citizens scientists engaged in the form of design thinking and co-creation workshops. The EUTOPIA activities helped us to integrate citizen science into the urban planning by preparing MSCA Postdoc Fellowships 2022 application: A New Approach to Sustainable Development of Airport and Seaport Territory through Citizen Science: HubCities (Seal of Excellence).