



# CROPS

Curating, Replicating, Orchestrating and Propagating  
Citizen Science across Europe

January 2024 – December 2026



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# Agenda

- Welcome and introduction
- CROPS project
- EU Missions
- Interactive exercise on the scalability of citizen science
- Upscaling citizen science - perspectives from a UN representative
- CROPS Transnational Communities
- Interactive exercise for co-creating the objectives of the CROPS Transnational Communities
- Key messages, next steps and closing



## Session aims and outcomes

- Introduce the **CROPS** project, CROPS Transnational Communities and other CROPS activities
- Co-design the CROPS **Transnational Communities** to support the upscaling of citizen science with the citizen science community
- Discuss how citizen science can contribute towards the **EU Missions**
- Outcome: A better-informed citizen science community about the issues surrounding the **upscaling of citizen science** actions, and a better-informed community support structure, taking a user-centred approach towards its design and implementation.

# What's in it for you?

- Become a **founding member** of the CROPS Transnational Communities for each EU Mission;
- Become a member of the CROPS **Special Interest Group (SIG)** and get a chance to influence the European Commission's work on upscaling citizen science;
- Access CROPS **resources and guidance** for upscaling citizen science projects;
- Contribute to and be credited in the **CROPS outputs**, e.g., scientific papers, policy papers, MOOC, etc.;
- Get a chance to be **featured** in the CROPS outputs, e.g., the MOOC, training resources, interviews, citizen science champions work, live events such as webinars;
- Extend your networks and **learn from others' experiences** on upscaling citizen science.

## Speakers

- **Dilek Fraisl**, Research Scholar, IIASA - Managing Director, CSGP
- **James Sprinks**, Senior Citizen Science Researcher, and Scientific Principle Investigator of CROPS, Earthwatch
- **Catarina Azevedo**, Senior Consultant, INOVA+
- **Giovanni Maccani**, Research Director, Ideas for Change
- **Steve MacFeely**, Director of Data and Analytics, WHO



# Who are you?

- Citizen scientist
- Project coordinator
- Researcher
- Policy maker
- Community member (in industry, business, local authority)





## HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ERA-01-08 - Laying the groundwork towards Europe-wide citizen science campaigns

### CROPS and ScienceUs

Many citizen science initiatives could achieve much **higher impact** if they were implemented on a transnational basis, collecting, analysing and exploiting vast amounts of cross-country data and, thereby, building a **multinational community** of citizen scientists. However, small-scale national citizen science projects often face practical, technical, or conceptual challenges and lack the **support**, the transnational **coordination skills**, and the **resources**, to upscale their efforts to a transnational level.

**CURATE** the current citizen science landscape, through screening and identifying suitable citizen science projects for upscaling to a Europe-wide level

The CROPS project will conduct a thorough review of current citizen science activities, selecting the most suitable to undergo a scalability potential assessment, evaluating their potential at an upscaled level.





# 2.

**REPLICATE** and use as a foundation the best practice of potentially scalable projects, to support citizen science activities to fully realise their impact potential at an upscaled level

Existing methodologies regarding user-centred design, communication, stakeholder engagement, training, education, RRI, inclusivity and trust will be included. Support will be given in terms of understanding the impact of upscaling citizen science activities when considering these issues, and the potential contribution towards the EU mission goals.



# 3.

**ORCHESTRATE** the upscaling process, through maximising the uptake of outputs and the sustainability of citizen science activities when moving to wider scales

Existing methodologies, mechanisms, models and standards regarding open data repositories and funding streams will be evaluated in terms of their applicability to citizen science at different scales. Through this process, modalities and protocols will be developed to help ensure citizen science practices fully exploit their data and outputs to as wide an audience as possible



# 4.

**PROPAGATE** the potential of upscaled citizen science, and the CROPS support, through the creation of transnational communities, societal coalitions and the identification of citizen science 'champions'

Through the creation of transnational citizen science communities, built on existing networks (for instance European Citizen Science), and targeted towards the Horizon Europe EU missions, CROPS will propagate the potential of citizen science at the ERA scale.





# The EU Missions in Horizon Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

## EU MISSIONS

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

#EUmissions #HorizonEU

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The banner features a light blue and green gradient background. At the top left is the European Union flag and the text 'EUROPEAN UNION'. Below this, the words 'EU MISSIONS' are written in large, bold, white capital letters. To the right of the text are five icons: a globe with a thermometer, a purple awareness ribbon, a blue building with a tree, a blue water drop over waves, and a green plant with roots. Below the icons is the text 'Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges' in a bold, dark blue font. At the bottom right are the hashtags '#EUmissions' and '#HorizonEU'. A small copyright notice '© European Union, 2021' is located at the bottom left of the banner.



# EU Missions: Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

- New approach to work together towards a healthy, green and digital future.
- Missions have ambitious goals and are designed to deliver concrete results by 2030:



**cancer:** improve the lives of more than 3 million people



achieve 100 **climate-neutral and smart cities**



make 150 regions and communities **climate resilient**



create 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards **healthy soils**



restore our **ocean and waters**



# EU Missions

- A mission is a portfolio of actions across disciplines intended to achieve a **bold and inspirational and measurable goal** within a set timeframe, with **impact** for society and policy making as well as relevance for a significant part of the European population and wide range of European citizens.
- **Missions directly support several of the EU priorities:** European Green Deal, New European Bauhaus, Europe fit for the Digital Age, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, An Economy that Works for People, EU's Long-term Vision for Rural Areas
- Missions are part of the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, and are expected to deliver impact by putting research and innovation into a new role, combined with new forms of governance and collaboration, as well as by engaging citizens. EU Missions are **designed to inspire and empower citizens** to improve their lives and those of others.

**EU Missions**

**Relating EU's research and innovation better to society and citizens' needs; with strong visibility and impact**

# 1.

## **Adaptation to Climate Change:**

focuses on supporting EU regions, cities and local authorities in their efforts to build resilience against the impacts of climate change.

Contributes to putting the EU's adaptation strategy in practice by helping the regions to:

- better understand the climate risks they are and will be confronted with in the future
- develop their pathways to be better prepared and cope with the changing climate
- test and deploy on the ground innovative solutions needed to build resilience

Target: accompany by 2030 at least 150 European regions and communities towards climate resilience.



ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE





# 2.

**100 Climate-Neutral and Smart cities:** involves local authorities, citizens, businesses, investors as well as regional and national authorities to -

1. Deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030
2. Ensure that these cities act as experimentation and innovation hubs to enable all European cities to follow suit by 2050

It takes a cross-sectoral and demand-led approach, creating synergies between existing initiatives and basing its activities on the actual needs of cities.

The 112 selected cities (100 EU) are developing **Climate City Contracts**, which include an overall plan for climate neutrality across all sectors such as energy, buildings, waste management and transport, together with related investment plans. They are co-created with local stakeholders and citizens, with the help of a Mission Platform ([NetZeroCities](#)).



# 3.

## **Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030:**

to protect and restore the health of our ocean and waters through research and innovation, citizen engagement and blue investments.

The Mission's new approach addresses the ocean and waters as one. It is expected to play a key role in achieving climate neutrality and restoring nature.

This Mission includes broad public mobilisation and engagement and a digital ocean and water knowledge system, known as **Digital Twin Ocean**.

The Mission supports regional engagement and cooperation through **area-based "lighthouses"** in major sea/river basins: Atlantic-Arctic, Mediterranean Sea, Baltic-North Sea, and Danube-Black Sea.



# 4.

**Cancer Mission:** *“By 2030, more than 3 million lives saved, living longer and better”*

The Mission joins efforts across Europe with citizens, stakeholders and Member States, and together with the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan aims to provide a better understanding of cancer, allow for earlier diagnosis and optimisation of treatment and improve cancer patients’ quality of life during and beyond their cancer treatment.

The 4 Mission objectives:

- Understanding of cancer
- Prevention and early detection
- Diagnosis and treatment
- Quality of life for patients and & their families



# 5.

## A Soil Deal for Europe:

Life on Earth depends on healthy soils. However, it is estimated that between 60 and 70% of EU soils are unhealthy.

### 8 Objectives

- reduce desertification
- conserve soil organic carbon stocks
- stop soil sealing & increase re-use of urban soils
- reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration

The Mission leads the transition towards healthy soils by:

- funding an ambitious R&I programme with a strong social science component
  - putting in place an effective network of 100 living labs and lighthouses to co-create knowledge, test solutions and demonstrate their value in real-life conditions
  - developing a harmonised framework for soil monitoring
  - raising people's awareness on the vital importance of soils
- prevent erosion
  - improve soil structure to enhance soil biodiversity
  - reduce the EU global footprint on soils
  - improve soil literacy in society



SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE



## Interactive Exercise

- Go to the EU Mission that is related to your citizen science project or work.
- Discuss the following questions with the others in your Mission:
  - What are the **contributions** of Citizen Science to the mission?
  - What are the examples of projects you are aware of for each of the contribution statements provided.

**15 min group work - 10 min to discuss together**



# Upscaling citizen science in the context of European and global challenges

Dr. Steve MacFeely  
Director of Data and Analytics, WHO



# CROPS Transnational Communities

- Creating communities at a **transnational scale** to help upscale citizen science to contribute to the achievement of EU Missions.
- Join the CROPS Transnational Community now and be a founding member to **shape the conversations and influence policies** around upscaling citizen science: <https://forms.office.com/e/b5izd5FkdU>
- The CROPS Communities will build on the existing **citizen science networks** formed by previous EU actions, projects and communities and on the WeObserve Communities of Practice.



## SDG CoP: UN Sustainable Development Goals and Citizen Observatories

Our objectives, which were co-created by our CoP participants, are to:

- Understand the opportunities and challenges for the use of data from citizen science/citizen observatories for SDG monitoring; and
- Advance our knowledge of how citizen science/citizen observatories can help behaviour change towards achieving the SDGs.





## Interactive Exercise

- Divide into groups, e.g., 6 people per group;
- Focusing on the overarching theme of the Transnational Communities that align with the EU Missions, come up with some ideas/keywords about what the **objectives of these Communities** can or should be;
- Using the post-its for your keywords and ideas for a clustering exercise to be turned into **specific objectives** for the Transnational Communities later

**15 min group work - 10 min to discuss together**



## Key messages from today

Remember to sign up for the CROPS Transnational Community and other CROPS activities now:

<https://forms.office.com/e/b5izd5FkdU>

Transnational Community will be launched **January 2025**. We will be in touch!

By then, visit our website regularly for updates:

<https://crops-cs.eu/>

- Dilek Fraisl, IIASA, [fraisl@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:fraisl@iiasa.ac.at)
- Giovanni Maccani, Ideas for Change, [giovannimaccani@ideasforchange.com](mailto:giovannimaccani@ideasforchange.com)
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