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## Una.Resin, WP3, Co-Creation Workshop on Citizen Science, Preparatory guide

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# Una.Resin, WP3, Co-Creation Workshop on Citizen Science, Preparatory guide

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## ***Background***

The Una.Resin project aims at facilitating citizens participation to science in all its diversity by building a community of good practice inside the Una Europa Alliance, encouraging institutional changes necessary to promote citizen science, and implementing a program of actions for knowledge sharing, mutual learning and team cooperation.

To achieve this goal, a first step will be taken with this workshop, during which participants will share their expertise, their practices, the difficulties they have faced, and how these can be overcome, in order to create a broader understanding of what is – and what could be – citizen science within the Una Europa Alliance.

## ***Main aims of the workshop***



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 101017416

Through this workshop we aim at:

- **gathering knowledge** from experts (researchers and managers) for the definition of concrete grounding principles and common standards
- **collecting a set of best practices** to promote citizen science at institutional and project levels
- envisioning **possible forms of cooperation** within and between citizen science teams

Collected inputs will lead to a manifesto or position paper, and the propositions elaborated in this way will be tested in pilots implemented within the Una.Resin project.

## ***Participants***

This workshop will gather 16 participants from the eight Una Europa universities.

It will bring together people who:

- (a) are experts in Citizen Science (principles, practices and tools);
- (b) are experts in History, Anthropology and/or Epistemology of Science;
- (c) are experts in intercultural communication;
- (d) have experience in managing Citizen Science teams;
- (e) have experience in developing and managing Citizen Science ecosystems.

## ***Workshop overall organisation***

This workshop will take place on zoom. All access information will be shared ahead of the event.

### **1. Topics being addressed**

This co-creation workshop is conceived as a co-elaboration and reflection space to address, at project and institutional levels, two fundamental dimensions of citizen science (please see also the programme document):

- a) How can citizen science transform science and society?*
- b) How to break down boundaries with Citizens in all their diversity?*

### **2. Workshop structure**

The workshop will be organised as follows (please see also the programme document):

- a. Morning (10.00-11.30):** The morning session will be held in a plenary format and will be open to the whole Una Europa community. The abovementioned topics will be introduced with two introducing keynote lectures, followed by a round-table discussion. Participants are encouraged to participate actively and contribute to the discussions. Please be aware that this plenary session will be recorded.



- b. Afternoon (13.00-17.00):** During the afternoon sessions, the participants will be gathered in 4 small working groups to work on the abovementioned topics. Three main stages will structure the working sessions:
- **Ice breaker (13.15-13.35):** To give all participants the opportunity to get to know each other, each participant will be invited:
    - to introduce her/himself, through a short biographical presentation (2 minutes maximum), explaining your background, your current position and your interest in participating in this workshop
    - come along with a picture, drawing or emblematic word illustrating her or his views on Citizen Science
  - **Break-out sessions (13.35-15.10):** During these break-out sessions two fundamental issues related to citizen science will be explored by 4 distinct working groups. Each group will consist of 4 people who will be assisted by a facilitator. Each participant will be assigned to a specific group. Group assignments will be communicated before the workshop. More details on the topics addressed during these break-out sessions are provided below. These sessions will not be recorded.
  - **Wrap up and final discussion (15.40-16.30):** This session will be held in a plenary format and open to the whole Una Europa community. Each working group, represented by one of the participants, will present its main conclusions. A final wrap up discussion with an external stakeholder will then follow. Please be aware that this final wrap up session will be recorded.

## ***Do I need to prepare for the break-out sessions?***

Yes! Before the workshop, we request you to carefully examine the preparatory template document, which includes 7 guiding questions, and to preliminarily answer them. We invite you to reflect on important values (things that matter to you) and practical actions while going through this document.

## ***How to prepare the Ice Breaker?***

During the workshop, the participants will be organized into four groups. Working groups 1 and 2 will address topic a), while working groups 3 and 4 will discuss topic b). Each group will consist of 4 people who will be assisted by a professional facilitator. Each break-out session will open with an Ice Breaker, where participants are invited to introduce themselves. We encourage you to fill in the slide 3, by providing a short bio and adding a feature that illustrates your views. You will be invited to share this slide during this Ice Breaker sessions.

## ***How to prepare the working sessions?***

Each topic is introduced below and will be addressed by discussing a related set of questions. Participants are encouraged to prepare their answers to these questions ahead of the workshop by filling in the preparatory template document.



## 1. Topic a) - How can citizen science transform science and society?

- **Problem statement**

Bearing in mind that each participatory approach is unique, we aim to encourage a joint reflection on how knowledge production through research characterised by greater openness and cooperation with citizens could look like, and what challenges this raises within our universities and in society at large (please see also the programme document for a more detailed description).

- **Questions to prepare**

1. From your experience of citizen science (CS), which definition is the most relevant in the Una Europa Alliance context **(12 minutes)**
2. In your field of activity, which type of CS projects: a) are the most represented; b) are less frequent; c) should be more frequent **(12 minutes)**
3. Considering your answers to the previous question, what kind of obstacles or difficulties are critical at project and institutional levels and how can they be overcome (please also explain the main benefits and challenges in terms of research-based knowledge production and societal impact)? **(12 minutes)**
4. Let's now dream a little bit: according to you, what would a perfect CS Cooperation Hub look like? **(25 minutes)**
5. Considering your answers to the previous question, what kind of: a) support services; b) platform or digital tools; c) training provided at the Alliance level could foster CS activities and projects. **(15 minutes)**
6. Is there any CS interdisciplinary topic that you would like to be addressed within Una Europa? **(7 minutes)**
7. Any best practice that you would like to be promoted within Una Europa? **(7 minutes)**

 ***A preparatory template and additional information are provided to help you to prepare your answers (cf. ppt document)***

## Topic 2 - How to break down boundaries with Citizens in all their diversity?

- **Problem statement**

Who are exactly the “citizens” giving time to gather data and contribute to research activities, knowledge production and strategic agendas elaboration? Who is participating and who is not? These questions are crucial and relate to the many ways to engage with and for citizens. During this workshop, we intend to further discuss the “double-edge” issue of ensuring sufficient degrees of representativity and inclusiveness while cooperating with targeted communities which usually have and express specific needs.

- **Questions to prepare**



1. From your experience of citizen science (CS) with or for citizens, which definition is the most relevant in the Una Europa Alliance context. **(12 minutes)**
2. In your field of activity, which type of CS projects: a) are the most represented; b) are less frequent; c) should be more frequent (please also explain the main benefits and challenges in terms of actors/stakeholders representativity and project inclusiveness)? **(12 minutes)**
3. Considering your answers to the previous question, what kind of obstacles or difficulties are critical for citizens enrollment and engagement, at project and institutional levels, and how can they be overcome ? **(12 minutes)**
4. Let's now dream a little bit: according to you, what would a perfect CS Cooperation Hub look like? **(25 minutes)**
5. Considering your answers to the previous question, what kind of: a) support services; b) platform or digital tools; c) training provided at the Alliance level could foster cooperation with citizens? **(15 minutes)**
6. Is there any CS interdisciplinary topic that you would like to be addressed within Una Europa? **(7 minutes)**
7. Any best practice that you would like to be promoted within Una Europa? **(7 minutes)**

 **A preparatory template and additional information are provided to help you to prepare your answers (cf. ppt document)**

## ***Final Discussion***

Break-out sessions will end with a final wrap up and exchanges with external discussants. Each working group, will appoint someone to present a synthetic overview of the work accomplished and highlight main conclusions. be aware that this final wrap up session will be recorded.

## ***Technical guidelines***

The link to the meeting, which will take place on zoom, will be circulated ahead of the workshop. Participants will be able to join the workshop space earlier to check their cameras, microphones and screen sharing options, as well as their access to the whiteboards that may also be used. Final instructions will be communicated a few days before the workshop.

Since we plan to audio-video record part of the workshop sessions to document the process and outcomes thereof, you will also be contacted to get your consent concerning data collection and processing.

