

Newsletter #3, HEIDI project

Digital action at HEIs as a catalyst for social change in the COVID-19 crisis

HEIDI - Past events

During the last few months, HEIDI academic partners organized several events, some of which are listed below:

Webinars to Raise Awareness in Citizen Science

During March and April 2022, as part of the HEIDI project, UCL Geography and the People Nature Lab at UCL East organised 12 online webinars and training activities, engaging over 100 people. Topics included:

- "Why trust citizen generated data" with with Alexandra Czeglédi (ESSRG) and Amy Freitag (NOAA);
- "Citizen Science with Indigenous Communities" with David Berger (IWGIA) and Dimitris Argyriou (Forests & Peoples Organisation);
- "Achieving policy impact with Citizen Science" with Dr Sven Schade (JRC), Dr Izzy Bishop (UCL) and Professor Muki Haklay (UCL);
- "Citizen Science and Sustainable Development Goals" with Dr Dilek Fraisl (IIASA) and Yaqian Wu (UCL);
- "Citizen science and Ethnobotany" with Dr Baiba Pruse (Ca'Foscari U.Venice), Dr Renata Soukand (Ca'Foscari U.Venice) and Dr Eliana Rodrigues (U.F.São Paulo)

...and many more!

Participants found these very interesting and helpful and we'll therefore organise more during May and June! If you want to join have a look at our upcoming #CitizenScience4AllTalks events below.

Digital skills acquired through DA inside & outside HEIs

In May, Web2Learn organised 4 information sessions on digital skills development with HEIDI partners in order to generate discussion among partner organisations (3 Universities, one VET organisation, one NGO) regarding frameworks, methods and tools for digital skills acquisition through the citizen engagement events that HEIDI partners will organise between June-October 2022.

May was also a month in which Web2Learn submitted a conference paper entitled "Framing digital skills developed through informal, digital action

inside and outside universities”. The paper is based on the report on Frameworks of digital skills produced by Web2Learn in the context of the **HEIDI** project, and it will be presented in the 14th annual International Conference on Education and **New** Learning Technologies (EDULEARN22), Palma de Mallorca. 4th - 6th of July, 2022.

On May 17, **Web2Learn** participated on the matchmaking event of the **#EUSpace4Ukraine** initiative carried out by EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA). The matchmaking event is directly connected to and precedes the **HEIDI** hackathon and datathon events to be organised in the coming months.

DA with grassroots communities

Intellectual Output 3 - "using a bottoms-up approach where DAs are driven by communities" - is mostly targeting people with fewer opportunities. As such, in this Output **the aim is to co-conduct Digital Actions with grassroots communities along Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) and evaluate challenges and possibilities for HEIs' digital transformation**. Twenty-two different events fall under the umbrella of this Output, undertaken from the partners in UK, Cyprus, Paris and Greece with the ambition of involving 635 people in total. A number of these events have been accomplished with great success. Here is a sneak peek from our **latest** event, organised by CIP at the Avgorou VET School in Cyprus (11 May 2022).

Educators and students were informed on how makerspaces can boost NEETs' and early school leavers' understanding of the working life, fostering their entrepreneurial skills, as well as stimulating an interest in STEM competences and VET careers among young learners. Fifteen VET educators & students and two staff members of **C.I.P** familiarized the participants with microcontrollers by introducing them to different design-thinking methods of developing products, services, or strategies to create various applications.



Another event was organised in Cyprus, from **C.I.P** on the 25th of February 2022, hosted at the University of Nicosia, where 8 participants from grassroots communities and three staff members of **C.I.P** familiarized the attendees with basic knowledge and training on 3D printing. After a brief introduction to the theory of 3D printing, participants modeled and printed the Cypriot neolithic house of Chirokoitia.

The feedback from the target group received so far is very encouraging and in alignment with our aims. Some of the quotes from the participants include:

- *"As I love drawing and designing, having the opportunity to learn about 3D modeling was beyond exciting!"*
- *"Seeing how a 3D printer works from up close was a rare experience for me!"*
- *"I became familiar with TinkerCad and other softwares for 3D modeling"*
- *"I was not familiar with 3D printing, and I couldn't even imagine that I would design my own model"*

Workshops and seminars on digital hacktivism

During the past couple of months, the Learning Planet Institute (former CRI) organize two training events on digital hacktivism:

- **"Paris in Numbers"** aimed to help non-hackers understand the uses and applications of OpenData and use it to tackle urban challenges of the city of Paris. Thanks to the work done by the participants in this hackathon, a **new** project is currently being conducted with the city of Paris in order to support the city's mobility department in taking informed decisions on where to build **new** bike parking spots, working towards the city's mobility, social, and environmental goals.
 - **"Critical Data, Arts and Science"** was a 2-part event (seminar + workshop) that offered **new** tools to perceive and interact with the natural world, allowing artists to connect with technology and offering scientists unconventional means to perceive data. It introduced participants to ORCA, an esoteric programming language, taking the shape of a 2D canvas designed to develop real-time interactive applications to control custom robotic hardware, both for artistic and scientific purposes.
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Co-creation workshops at UM

University of Malta has been preparing for a co-creation workshop, being held on 27th May at the Valletta Design Cluster. HEI staff and students, and members of the wider community will be discussing Digital Action in Malta and their own personal experiences, and designing a competition that sees students creating a Digital Action based upon the themes raised during the roundtable events held in November 2021.

HEIDI - *What's next*

UCL **#CitizenScience4All** Talks in May and June

UCL Geography and the **People Nature Lab at UCL East** organise a set of online webinars, called **#CitizenScience4AllTalks**. The webinars attempt to raise awareness in citizen science, introduce the basic principles and engage academic staff, students and community members who want to run their own project or who simply want to find out more about what's happening in the field.

Upcoming events in May and June include a set of talks from world-leading experts and training activities in the following topics:

- Wednesday **25th May, 4pm BST**: **“Data Quality for Citizen Science”** with Peter Mooney and Frank Ostermann. Tickets [here](#).
- Thursday **26th May, 3pm BST**: **“Noise Pollution and Citizen Science”** with Antonella Radicchi and Christian Nold. Tickets [here](#).
- Thursday **26th May, 4pm BST**: **“Citizen Science with underrepresented communities”** with Petra Benyei and Rick Hall. Tickets [here](#).
- Tuesday **31st May, 2pm BST**: **“Citizen Science with Indigenous Communities”** with Finn Danielsen and Paviarak Jakobsen. Tickets [here](#).

- Wednesday **1st June, 4pm BST**: “**Citizen Science in Astronomy**” with Dr Karen Masters, Dr Liz McDonald and Osnat Katz. Tickets [here](#).
- Thursday **2nd June, 4pm BST**: “**Create Your Own Zooniverse Project**” with Alice Sheppard. Tickets [here](#).
- Thursday **2nd June, 4:45pm BST**: “**Create Your Own nQuire Project**” with Alice Sheppard. Tickets [here](#).
- Thursday **9th June, 4pm BST**: “**Introduction to City Nature Challenge**” with Alice Sheppard. Tickets [here](#).
- Thursday **9th June, 4:30pm BST**: “**Citizen Science Event Planning**” with Alice Sheppard. Tickets [here](#).

Do you want to propose a #CitizenScience4AllTalk topic? Get in touch with us, to discuss and we might be able to organise it! Contact [Dr Artemis Skarlatidou](#).

HEIDI webinar on Digital Hacktivism

On **June 1st and 2nd**, **Web2Learn** will organise a webinar within the **HEIDI** project under the title “**Digital activism: scope, methodology, tools and practice**”. The aim of the webinar is to enhance understanding of grassroots digital action initiatives carried out by Higher Education Institutions and citizen communities. The invited speakers of the webinar will be **HEIDI**'s partners, namely: Artemis Skarlatidou (UCL), Dule Misevic (UP), Katerina Zourou & Stefania Oikonomou (Web2Learn).

Round tables with NEETs in Paris

The **UP** team will be holding 2 round tables with groups of people that are Not in Education, Employment, or Training, aiming to understand their interest and barriers for participation in Digital Action initiatives. The aim will be to better understand how Higher Education Institutions can contribute to creating initiatives that includes them and gives them a (much needed) voice in the co-creation of DA during (and after) the COVID-19 pandemic.

Workshop and Summer School on SDGs

UP is also organizing an introductory workshop on "Community engagement in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)", which will take place on **June 18th**. This event will be followed by a 1-month [summer school](#) (during July) in which teams of HEI students will co-create frugal solutions to challenges related to SDGs in their own communities, using the MakerLab of the Learning Planet Institute.