

Newsletter #8, HEIDI project

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

HEIDI - Past events

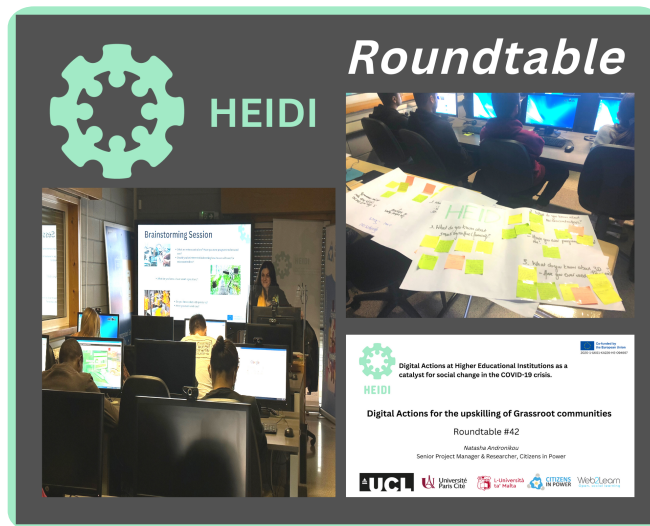
"HEI Ethics for Digital Action during Covid-19" panel

The **UCL** team organised a panel discussion in which the participants shared many interesting insights of how their projects underwent a rapid change when the pandemic hit - especially how to continue to reach vulnerable communities when face-to-face communication was no longer possible. The panel suggested that diversity, inclusion and equity are of utmost importance in any form or type of digital action. Ethical guidelines and relevant codes of conduct need to be “flexible” and directly responsive and reflect the needs of the various communities of practice in order to avoid introducing additional exclusion barriers that limit access, engagement and the impact of digital action. You can watch the full discussion [here](#) and read about the key take-aways from this event [here](#).

Digital Action Roundtable in Nicosia, Cyprus

In November, **CIP** organized another Digital Action Roundtable as part of the HEIDI project. In this setting, underrepresented communities with either a migrant background, refugee status, and currently unemployed were offered the opportunity to voice their social, environmental, and other concerns. Through a rigorous discussion, participants shared their views in terms of the digital skills needed and possible digital actions required to advance their communities. The discussion centered on the use of both microcontrollers and 3D-printing technologies for the advancement of smart agriculture, skills, and communal development in Cyprus. This also enabled the facilitators to better reflect on those concerns raised and the needs voiced in order to adjust their position in future co-created DA activities and digital skills training on offer.

We are especially grateful to all participants for their thoughts and input.



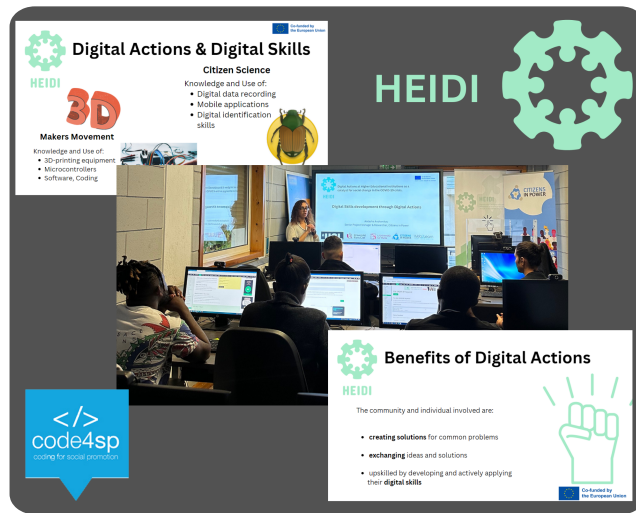
“Scientific Outreach, Citizen Science: Marginalised and Indigenous Communities” webinar

Also by **UCL**, this webinar presented two wonderful initiatives. The first one was about reaching indigenous communities living in the Amazon rainforest and how they are safeguarding natural resources using citizen science tools and methods by **Rafael Chiaravalloti**. The second one, presented by **Eugenia Covernton**, was the NGO [Lecturers Without Borders](#) which aims to organise free outreach events by scientists in schools around the world. The webinar will also be added to the [Extreme Citizen Science YouTube channel](#) in the next few days, for those who would like to watch it.

CIP HEIDI event in association with Code4SP

On November 16th, the HEIDI project joined forces with the project [Code4SP](#) to provide both digital skills training in the form of training in coding software and an evaluation of digital skills gained through Digital Actions.

Code4SP aims to transfer computer programming (coding skills) to people from vulnerable socio-economic groups in response to current labor market trends, high youth unemployment, and low ICT expert rates. The objective is to provide those digital skills needed to disadvantaged or digitally excluded communities to enable the creation of new opportunities for social promotion and social inclusion.



The participants were offered training in various coding software, including Java, CSS, Python, and SQL. These free training opportunities have also been recurring needs expressed by participants in the various HEIDI roundtable events. Access to open-source coding resources would enable the latter to develop the Digital Actions needed to further not only their individual but also collective community needs.

SDG school in Thiès, Senegal

Our team from **UP**, in collaboration with [HOME Education](#), organised a Maker School in Thiès, Senegal, in which local students were challenged to identify a local issue linked to the **UN's Sustainable Development Goals** and prototype a frugal solution. The students were highly engaged and the prototypes were fabulous! We thank all the participants and we look forward to doing it again next year with those who couldn't join us!



HEIDI - What's next

HEIDI will take a break until 2023!

No events are planned for the remaining few days of the year, but we will be back in 2023 with some new and exciting activities!

Regardless of whether you're celebrating anything during this period or simply closing the calendar year, we wish you all the best and will stay in touch soon with more updates! Thank you for being with us during this exciting 2022!