

# Newsletter #9, HEIDI project

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

## HEIDI - general news

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### Two new publications on the HEIDI website!

The HEIDI teams have been very busy finishing up the report on the activities and the findings from all our roundtables and events!

#### 1. What did we learn from our DA co-creation events?

Intellectual Output 2 (IO2) aimed specifically to create the conditions for citizens to voice their concerns through co-creation processes with HEI staff and students in DA projects, to seek solutions and engage them in the knowledge production and sharing cycle. It consisted of a series of activities aiming to train HEI staff and students in the design and implementation of DA and then organise DA events to provide them with hands-on experience on how to transform the relationship between HEIs and the communities by co-creating DA that addresses community needs. The results of the evaluation of these activities suggest that HEI staff and students became more interested in the design and implementation of DA that addresses community needs and more aware of the impacts of HEIs in their communities.

You can find our report "**Digital Action Now: University students and staff to the service of community needs during the pandemic**" [here](#). The UP team would like to thank all partners for their input and contributions.

#### 2. Does participation in actions for a social purpose can act as an enabler of (digital) skills?

(and, if so, can these skills be identified, standardized and measured?)

This is the scope of the open access publication "**Developing digital skills of HE students and staff with regard to responsiveness to crisis situations**" (see [here](#)). By taking as starting point the EU Digital Competence framework for Citizens (European Commission, 2022), we conducted a survey on digital skills identification through digital actions in three European countries (Malta, France, Cyprus), with participants having participated in different digital

actions (citizen science, hackathons, maker spaces). A mapping and categorization of digital skills according to the DigComp 2.2. framework showed similarities and differences in all implementation sites. The cross-site analysis is now available online. [Web2Learn](#), as leader of this report, would like to thank all HEIDI partners for their valuable input across implementation sites.

## *HEIDI - What's next*

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### **UP is organizing a great Multiplier Event to close the HEIDI project in Paris!**

It will be a **full-day bilingual workshop** (FR/EN) in which participants will be able to explore tools, challenges and opportunities for engagement of HEI in Participatory Science projects aiming to solve societal challenges.

The **morning session** will consist of a series of **short presentations** about the HEIDI project and its deliverables and the way it relates to two other projects that the Learning Planet Institute (LPI) is involved in: the PATTERN project, and the European Citizen Science (ECS) projects. Both projects are focused on **development and delivery of training in the areas of open and responsible research and innovation, and on citizen science**.

In the **afternoon**, there will be an **interactive workshop** with group discussions and activities **around challenges and opportunities for co-creation of solutions to societal issues**. These discussions will contribute to the use of the results of the HEIDI project, and will shape the training that will be developed in PATTERN and ECS.

This **full-day event** will take place on **Tuesday, April 4th**, at [the LPI in Paris](#), starting from **9:30am** and finishing with a cocktail at **5:30pm**.

Please use [this link](#) to register for the event and help us spread the word about it to your colleagues or anyone you think could be interested in participating, inviting them to register.

## WORKSHOP

# Solutions and opportunities for HEIs in participatory science towards societal challenges

4 April 2023 - 10am (full day)

Learning Planet Institute

8bis rue Charles V,  
75004 Paris



Multiplier event,  
[heidiproject.eu](https://heidiproject.eu)



HEIDI

### Morning Keynotes

Challenges and opportunities for citizen engagement  
Open digital infrastructure

### Afternoon workshop

Knowledge, tools, challenges and needs for community engagement  
Digital transformation of HEIs to help address community needs



Université  
Paris Cité



## UM will be hosting a multiplier event in Valletta

The HEIDI team at the [University of Malta](#) are preparing for their multiplier event, to be held **on April 21st** at the **Valletta Design Cluster**. The VDC is a makerspace in the heart of Malta's capital city, Valletta, and where we hosted the co-creation workshops for Output 2. UM have invited key stakeholders from NGOs, community groups, volunteer organisations for an evening exhibiting the hardwork that the HEIDI partners produced.

**Three speakers will be discussing the HEIDI findings** from a public, private and HEI perspective, and exploring the future of digital action both locally and internationally. UM have also organised a series of **interactive game sessions** where guests can learn more about Digital Action and how it can benefit their own organisations and groups.

Collaborations with a local entrepreneur team are underway to make to digital artefacts as gifts to our guests... watch this space!