

Final Newsletter, HEIDI project

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

HEIDI comes to an end!

After 2 very exciting years...

The HEIDI project finished, officially on May 31st. During the 2 years of the project, the 5 HEIDI partners generated the following concrete outputs:

- 101 HEIDI events, with 3,120 registrations
- 6 Pilot Studies for HE digital upskilling
- 5 Deliverable Reports and 5 synthesis of them, along with infographics and other materials (which you can find on our [website](#)), available in EN, FR, GR and MT.
- 1 Awareness Raising Film (watch it [here](#))
- 5 Multiplier Events (see [below](#)), with a total of 169 attendees/participants
- Over 60 blog posts (read them [here](#))
- 16 YouTube Videos (650+ Views)
- 60 HEIs, 15 Community Groups, 15 Policy-making Institutions and over 80 Voluntary Organisations engaged
- 1 media article ([Think! Magazine](#) featuring our HEIDI team at UM).

HEIDI multiplier events

UP hosted a great Multiplier Event in Paris!

On April 4th, **UP** hosted a **full-day bilingual workshop** (FR/EN) in which participants were able to explore tools, challenges and opportunities for engagement of HEI in Participatory Science projects aiming to solve societal challenges.

The **morning session** consisted 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 was 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.

Over 40 participants joined (and greatly enjoyed, based on their feedback) this event... and based on its success there's a follow-up event being organised for next September!



The poster is a teal-colored graphic with white and light blue text. It features a wavy line icon at the top left and bottom left. The main title is 'Solutions and opportunities for HEIs in participatory science towards societal challenges'. Below it, the date and time are '4 April 2023 - 10am (full day)'. The location is 'Learning Planet Institute, 8bis rue Charles V, 75004 Paris'. On the right side, there is a section for 'Multiplier event, heidiproject.eu' with the HEIDI logo (a green gear with people icons). Below that, 'Morning Keynotes' are listed: 'Challenges and opportunities for citizen engagement' and 'Open digital infrastructure'. Further down, 'Afternoon workshop' topics are listed: 'Knowledge, tools, challenges and needs for community engagement' and 'Digital transformation of HEIs to help address community needs'. At the bottom right, logos for 'Université Paris Cité' and 'Learning Planet Institute' are displayed.

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

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

LEARNING PLANET INSTITUTE

HEIDI Multiplier Event in Valletta, Malta

The **UM** team organised an event that centred on **how collaboration between public and private sectors, and academic institutions can produce better outcomes for Digital Action**. Stakeholders from government departments, local entrepreneurs and innovators, NGOs and academic institutions met to listen to the UM partners present the results of the Intellectual Outputs that formed the HEIDI Project.

Following the presentation, panellists included:

- **David Sciberras**, co-founder of Invent3D, a maker lab and 3D printing space
- **Johan Mifsud**, Director of eSkills Malta Foundation, a government department dedicated to digital upskilling
- **Prof Maria Attard**, Director of the Institute of Sustainability and Climate Change (as moderator and speaker)

They spoke about the importance of collaboration and open-source sharing for better research and innovation, and also highlighted the value in digital literacy

for better social inclusion.



Happy Pot co-founder Chris, speaking about DA and entrepreneurship.

The UM team then presented the results of their collaboration with **David Sciberras** and **Christian Mercieca** from Happy Pot with HEIDI-designed plant pots made from sustainable material. Each pot carries the HEIDI logo and also has an NFC that allows mobile phone users to tap their device against the HEIDI logo, opening up the HEIDI Project website. All participants of the event were given a Happy Pot as a keepsake of the HEIDI project, and a means to access the website.

The workshop section saw the group take part in a problem solving <https://happypot.co/g> exercise. The participants were divided into four groups that each worked on identifying a social problem, the best possible solution, and a Digital Action that would be suitable for better engagement. They then identified opportunities and challenges that they might encounter and prioritised them, grading from 1 to 3 in order of probability. Social issues discussed were mainly focused on environmental issues, increased urbanisation, spatial planning for child-friendly spaces, and improved digital awareness for the elderly.

The UM team wishes to extend their appreciation to those who attended and contributed to a thoroughly engaging event. The UM team also would like to take this opportunity to thank all who participated in the HEIDI Project events throughout the course of the project.

Third Multiplier Event in Thessaloniki!

W2L organised and hosted HEIDI's multiplier event in Thessaloniki, Greece on May 10, 2023. The event addressed the topic of **"Digital actions for a social purpose: University libraries for active citizenship through citizen science"** and was followed by 30 university staff, students and librarians from Greece as well as several European countries, such as the Baltics and Bulgaria.

The overall objective of the multiplier event was to **enrich the dialogue among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on the topic of active citizenship** that is fostered through citizen science actions in which academic and public libraries, as well as information science professionals, assume a leading role.



Katerina Zourou in her opening speech at the multiplier event

Web2Learn continues developing work uptaken in HEIDI on digital skills for a social purpose and community engagement in digitally-enhanced participatory actions in two EU-funded projects, namely [eCHOIng](#) (Recovery of cultural heritage through higher education-driven open innovation) and [BOLD](#) (Building on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity for social action within and beyond European universities). In the eCHOIng project, Web2Learn facilitates open innovation projects between universities and cultural heritage organisations, bringing a special focus on hackathons, while in BOLD we build online modules to promote linguistic and cultural diversity in initial teaching education through digitally-enhanced social action.



HEIDI Conference in Cyprus

Citizens in Power (**CIP**) celebrated the accomplishments of the HEIDI project by organising and hosting a multiplier event on the 16th of May, 2023, in Nicosia, Cyprus. The event was also live-streamed on Facebook to accommodate remote attendance and share the results of the HEIDI project with the wider CIP network. The HEIDI Conference was **focused on the potential of Digital Action to provide solutions for societal challenges**. In the spirit of the HEIDI project, it aimed to **create further opportunities for collaborative actions** between HEIs and voluntary and civic organisations, thus **providing the space for collective action** to grow to support community-driven knowledge enhancement.

HEI staff, students, researchers, academics, NGOs, CSOs, local entrepreneurs and innovators gathered at the Thinker Maker Space, CYENS, Center of Excellence and discussed the results of the HEIDI project, their potential application in HEI spaces and maker spaces outside universities, as well as, the implementation of DA in Cypriot universities. Following a presentation of the HEIDI project by **Natasha Andronikou** (CIP representative for the HEIDI Consortium), expert guest speakers on maker culture and citizen science were invited to talk about their field of work in Cyprus. **Marios Constantinides**, manager of the Thinker Maker Space at CYENS, introduced Design Thinking and Ideation, whilst **Dr Elli Tzirkalli**, Research Associate at the Open University of Cyprus, elaborated on the current state of citizen science in Cyprus and the challenges and opportunities for citizen engagement.

Attendees were also invited to participate in **two workshops centred on upskilling participants in a) design thinking model and DA design and b) 3D-printing technologies for DA**. In the first workshop, group participants

identified societal challenges or issues and started working on the design of solutions. In the second workshop, attendees were trained on the use of 3D printing technology as a suggestion of a technological tool that can be used to provide solutions for the issues identified. 3D-printed pots with the HEIDI logo printed on the day for demonstration purposes were given as a small gift to all at the end of the conference.

The C.I.P team would like to **thank all those that attended**, both in person and via Facebook Live, for sharing their ideas, experiences and thoughts on DA with us. We would especially like to thank **Dr Elli Tzirkalli** and **Mr Marios Constantinides** for their talks and contribution to the HEIDI Conference!

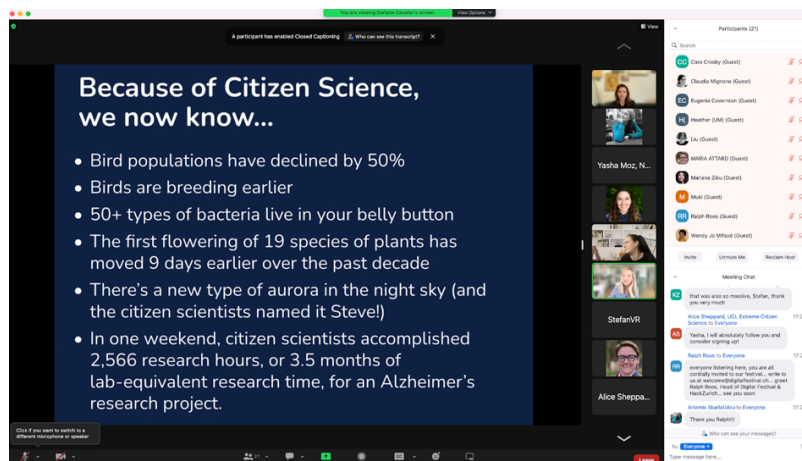


Closing event: Celebrating Digital Action and HEIDI's Impacts

With the HEIDI project coming to an end we took this opportunity to **commemorate our journey, share our outputs, but also celebrate Digital Action more broadly**, with some brilliant keynote speakers and provide the space to anyone interested in Digital Action to share their stories and connect with each other! To make the event more inclusive towards the global Digital Action community we run our closing event **online via Zoom**.

Successful Digital Action initiatives are happening around the world to solve diverse problems. The experiences and lessons learned from these initiatives in the broader digital participation context can support, inspire and strengthen digital action processes. Therefore, for the first day of our final HEIDI event - on the 30th of May 2023 - we wanted to focus on showcasing some renowned initiatives like **HackZurich**, **NASA Space Challenge App**, and **SciStarter**, celebrating their achievements and also hearing about their challenges and how they have overcome them. Our keynote speakers included **Darlene Cavalier** (founder of SciStarter.org), **Stefan von Rohr** (Project Manager of HackZurich), **Yasha Moz** and **Bridgette Johnson** (Organising Team and Global

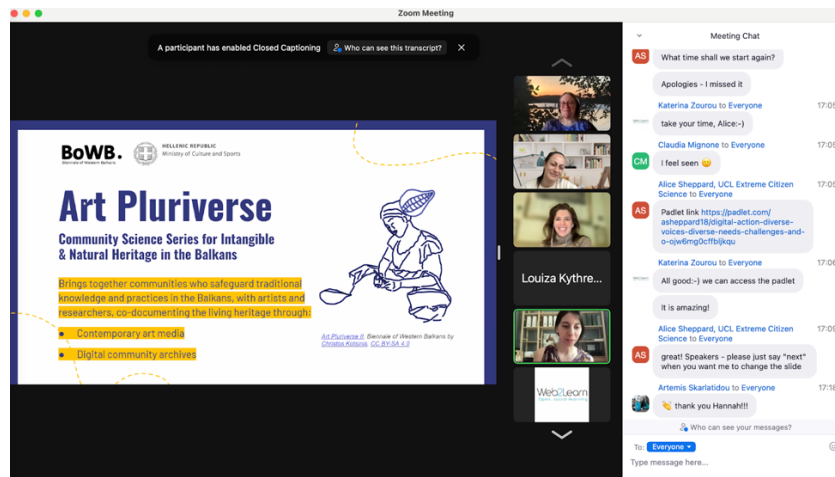
Community Managers of the NASA International Space Apps Challenge). We shared with participants a celebratory talk on the impacts of Digital Action for social change (by the project's PI [Artemis Skarlatidou](#)) and the mission and outputs of project HEIDI. Participants had also an opportunity to watch the film the UCL team prepared to showcase UCL's [Digital Services to Support Digital Action for Social Change](#).



Darlene Cavalier's keynote presentation on Citizen Science and SciStarter.org

The second day of the final event - on the 31st of May 2023 - was first dedicated to HEIDI and everyone who was part of this partnership. HEIDI's partnership members took the stage to share our project's story, our outputs, the lessons we have learned, the challenges we faced and most importantly the impact we have achieved and our vision for future Digital Action!

In HEIDI we believed in the power of improving awareness to enable key actors be more resilient and agile and to better embrace bottom-up Digital Action to achieve social change. Through these two years, we paid particular attention to include and provide the space to everyone interested in Digital Action (not only Higher Education Institutions, but also community groups, individuals, voluntary groups etc.) to voice their concerns and express their needs of how Digital Action can better support them to tackle the issues that matter to them and through that achieve social change. Our session **“Diverse voices solving diverse needs with Digital Action”** opened up the stage to everyone who wanted to share their Digital Action story and provided an opportunity for our participants to network and build synergies. We closed the second day's event with a workshop where participants shared their visions and ideas for co-designing DA initiatives as means to upskill both HE staff and staff of voluntary organisations.



Mariana Zikou, presenting lessons learned from Digital Action project 'Art Pluriverse'

We would like to **thank everyone who joined our final event**, as well as all participants who ever attended any of our HEIDI events. Their stories were truly inspirational, their thinking excessively broad-minded, their experiences - and through them - their contributions to HEIDI extremely invaluable in terms of shaping this project and achieving everything that we have so far achieved!

HEIDI - what's next?

All HEIDI partners continue to work on exciting projects!

HEIDI's journey in DA in the last 2 years, allowed for an exploration into the makers movement, hackathons and citizen science within HEIs and beyond, showcasing the value and benefit of collaboration and co-participation in technologically facilitated solutions for community issues.

As we move on beyond the HEIDI era, the methodologies and resources developed as part of the HEIDI project, as well as, the knowledge and skills gained, will further allow us to circulate the benefits of DA to our EU and international network. In the meantime, follow the progress of some of our current projects incorporating or focusing on some of the types of DA explored in HEIDI:



[CitSci4All](#) is an Erasmus+ KA2 project (2022 –2024) that centres on the inclusion and active participation of Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults in matters of climate change. Participation is achieved through citizen science. The project has developed a number of resources, including a Guide on Deaf and Hard of

Hearing adults' engagement in citizen science for climate change and a customised e-toolkit with interactive learning nuggets and inclusive multimedia resources for Deaf and Hard of Hearing educators/trainers. The project is currently at a stage where d/Deaf adults in Cyprus, Greece, France and Italy are actively participating in upwards of 5 citizen science projects on environmental and other climate change issues.

For more information follow us on:

Website: www.citsci4all.eu

Facebook: [@CitSci4All](https://www.facebook.com/CitSci4All)

YouTube: [@citsci4allerasmus137](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcitsci4allerasmus137)



The [DiGiPORT](#) project is an Erasmus+ KA2 project that aims at supporting the cultural and creative sectors affected by the Covid-19 crisis by deploying state-of-the-art technologies that allow “presence at a distance” to build a new “experience economy”. Within this framework, training and guidance in the design and implementation of online creative hackathons are incorporated into the DiGiPORT Toolkit. This is done to equip adult trainers and education organizations with digital and entrepreneurial skills to enhance sustainability and resilience for professionals in these sectors. Through the development of an online content platform and hackathons, CCS professionals and artists can create their own digital pop-up shops, promoting their work and adapting to the challenges posed by the pandemic.

For more information follow us on:

Website: www.digiport-project.eu

Facebook: [@DigiPort](https://www.facebook.com/DigiPort)



Following the collaboration with CIP throughout the HEIDI Project, UM and CIP are currently working together on an Erasmus+ project: Arch App - Digitalising Youth Awareness of the European Built Heritage (Project Number: KA220-YOU-7E2A8558)

ArchH App aims at offering efficient interdisciplinary tools and materials to support youth workers in incentivising young people aged 18-30, including marginalised groups, to discover the European dimension of local built heritage and to use digital technology to consolidate new knowledge and promote built heritage protection.

Heritage buildings are potent examples of intercultural exchange at European and international levels. The project intends to promote active citizenship and civic participation by leveraging the potential of youth as a social multiplier. Through the various activities proposed by the project, young people of diverse sociocultural backgrounds, supported by their youth workers, can become familiar with the buildings' historical and cultural value and, subsequently, aware of the multiple challenges these buildings are currently facing.

More information is available at:

<https://archapp.eu/>



The [European Citizen Science](#) is a Horizon Europe project (GA: 101058509.), which has the overall objective to widen and strengthen the citizen science community in Europe through capacity building and awareness raising activities, such as the creation of a European Citizen Science Academy and the establishment of a network of 28 citizen science Ambassadors. The project will support links and collaboration between members of the European Citizen Science community, who will be involved in the co-design and co-creation of a large variety of services, strategic priorities, training opportunities and policy recommendations. Members of HEIDI's consortium are project partners and members of the Advisory Board.

Thank you very much!

It was a pleasure to work with you!

This is the end of HEIDI's journey and the 5 consortium members would like to thank you for your continuous support. We would like to thank every one of our participants, our partners, our colleagues and our communities... you made this project a great experience!

Thank you so much for your support and involvement.

We hope to see you soon in another one of our DA adventures!