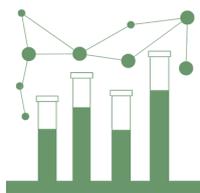




RIECS concept

Towards a pan-European Research Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science



1 goal: To build a strong
foundation for the future of
Citizen Science in Europe!



**8 countries
and
13 partners**



3 scientific areas:
Environmental observation,
Health, and Climate change



ABOUT RIECS-CONCEPT

The RIECS-Concept project aims to conceptualise the European Research Infrastructure for Excellence in Citizen Science that will leverage both citizens' resources (such as mobile phones, desktop computers, etc.) and existing scientific resources (citizen science platforms, data collections, existing research infrastructures, etc.) and will provide transversal services to the research community.

1

Assessing Feasibility and
Addressing Challenges

2

Developing a Strategic
Roadmap

3

Fostering Open and
Participatory Governance



OBJECTIVES

The RIECS-Concept focuses on three scientific areas – environmental observations, health, and climate change.

The projects will bridge typical citizens' used resources, such as mobile apps, amateur scientific kits or personal accessibility, with professional scientific resources, such as databases, federated computing and storage facilities, citizen science platforms, and dedicated personnel.

[OUR WEBSITE](#)



Funded by
the European Union

2nd Newsletter



RIECS
concept

Towards a pan-European Research
Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science

One Year in Motion: How RIECS-Concept is Advancing a Pan-European Citizen Science Infrastructure

Towards a pan-European Research Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science.

In its first year, RIECS-Concept moved beyond its initial concept into a phase of concrete dialogue and collective exploration. Through a growing number of co-creation workshops, community-focused events and expert consultations held across Europe, the project actively listened to diverse perspectives from the citizen science ecosystem.

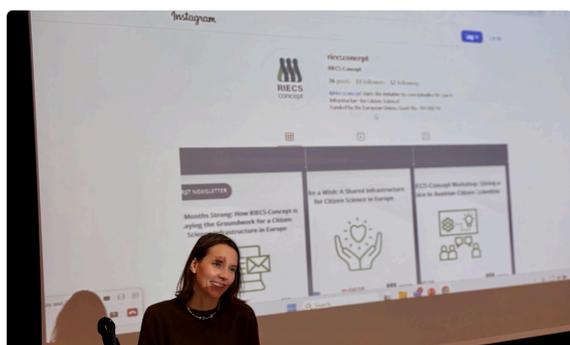
The insights gathered through these exchanges are now shaping the foundations of an emerging pan-European research infrastructure, one that reflects real practices, shared values and the need for sustainable, inclusive support for citizen science.



Gaining Visibility & Building Momentum

* **RIECS-Concept x Ars Electronica Festival 2025: “PANIC – yes/no”**, 3-7 September 2025, Linz, Austria.

[READ MORE](#)



* **The International Conference “Open Science Today and Tomorrow”**, 22 October 2025, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Moderated by Dr Monika Mačiulienė
VILNIUS TECH

[READ MORE](#)

[VIEW ALL EVENTS AND UPDATES](#)

101188210
RIECS-Concept
HORIZON-INFRA-2024-DEV-01



Funded by the European Union

2nd Newsletter



RIECS
concept

Towards a pan-European Research Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science



Gaining Visibility & Building Momentum

* **The Second Global Scientific Conference „Citizen Science for Health 2025“**, 7 November 2025, Zurich, Switzerland – where RIECS-Concept project invites participants to join the Solution Room “Listening, Learning, and Shaping” – an interactive session dedicated to co-designing the future of citizen science in health across Europe.

[READ MORE](#)



* **Co-Creating the Future of Citizen Science at the CS Barcelona Congress**, 18 November, Barcelona, Spain. The RIECS-Concept participated in the II Citizen Science Congress, hosting an engaging co-creation workshop that gathered more than 20 participants from the local and European citizen science landscape. Led by the EMBIMOS ICM-CSIC team.

[READ MORE](#)

* **The UNEA-7 Green Room event: “People and Policy Together: Building Global Citizen Science for a Resilient Planet”**, 3 December 2025, MS Teams.

Hosted by the Citizen Science Global Partnership (CSGP) and CS Zurich.

[READ MORE](#)

Developing a Research infrastructure
for Citizen Science

Citizen Science is growing, but ...

- Inefficiencies generated by silos
- Struggle with citizens' rights
- Victim of the funding trap

RIECS aim is to
connect, integrate, and amplify
existing and future
efforts, while
optimizing costs and impact

[VIEW ALL EVENTS AND UPDATES](#)

101188210
RIECS-Concept
HORIZON-INFRA-2024-DEV-01



Funded by the European Union

2nd Newsletter



RIECS
concept

Towards a pan-European Research Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science

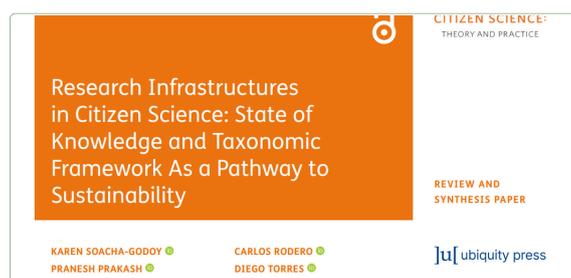


Gaining Visibility & Building Momentum

* The First Newsletter: Six Months Strong: How RIECS-Concept is Laying the Groundwork for a Citizen Science Infrastructure in Europe.

[READ MORE](#)

* The paper “Research Infrastructures in Citizen Science: State of Knowledge and Taxonomic Framework as a Pathway to Sustainability” was published in Citizen Science: Theory and Practice, contributing a shared language and taxonomic framework that supports interoperability and sustainability – key themes at the heart of RIECS-Concept.



[READ MORE](#)

* The paper “Why Citizen Science Is Now Essential for Official Statistics” was published in Nature Communications Sustainability, highlighting citizen science as a crucial pillar for strengthening official statistics under increasing pressure. The article demonstrates how citizen science can enhance data generation, interpretation and use for policy-making, the SDGs and societal decision-making – themes closely aligned with the objectives of RIECS-Concept.



[READ MORE](#)

[VIEW ALL EVENTS AND UPDATES](#)

101188210
RIECS-Concept
HORIZON-INFRA-2024-DEV-01



RIECS
concept

Towards a pan-European Research
Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science



Delivering the Essentials

RIECS-Concept has delivered strategic frameworks for communication, stakeholder engagement, digital identity and the assessment of key challenges shaping a future European citizen science research infrastructure.

D2.1 Challenges assessment

D2.1 provides a foundational analysis of the technical hurdles that must be overcome to build a world-class CS infrastructure. The deliverable identifies a set of major challenges hindering the development of a unified European CS infrastructure.

D4.1 Engagement Methodology Protocol

D4.1 is a blueprint of the engagement of multiple stakeholder groups throughout the duration of RIECS-Concept. Ten stakeholder groups will be engaged in the co-design and co-creation of the concept of the European Research Infrastructure for Excellence in Citizen Science (RIECS Concept).

D6.1 Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication Plan

D6.1 aims to detail a comprehensive strategy for engaging various stakeholders, facilitating the widespread adoption of the project outcomes, ensuring the effective transfer of knowledge to relevant sectors and paving the way for a sustainable research infrastructure for participatory science. By systematically communicating and disseminating the strategic findings, the plan aims to enhance the visibility of the project's contributions and encourage the practical application of its results.

D6.2 RIECS-Concept Digital and Visual Identity

D6.2 The objectives of the RIECS-Concept communication activities include raising awareness about the project to a broad audience, facilitating engagement of the stakeholders, disseminating project developments to key stakeholders, and finally implementing and updating an appropriate online presence (website, social media). The RIECS-Concept brand book, letterhead, roll-up, social media channels ([LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#) and [Bluesky](#)), and website are tools developed to reach these objectives, and additional materials will be created during the project.

[**MORE ABOUT DELIVERABLES**](#)



Funded by
the European Union

2nd Newsletter



RIECS
concept

Towards a pan-European Research
Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science



Building Together: Workshops Across Europe

Over the first year of the project, RIECS-Concept has already initiated and delivered a series of workshops across Europe, laying the groundwork for structured co-creation and stakeholder engagement. These workshops have already spanned thematic, geographic and community-based lines – from health and the environment to digital transformation and youth engagement.

✳️ The Workshop “Building a Shared Vision for RIECS-Concept”, 24-25 September 2025, Milan, Italy. Hosted by the University of Milano-Bicocca, this milestone event brought together consortium members to co-create a shared vision, mission, and vocabulary for RIECS-Concept, and to align on how each partner will engage with stakeholders and citizens in the months ahead.

[READ MORE](#)



✳️ The Citizen Science Workshop “Shaping the Future of RIECS-Concept”, 1 October 2025, Madrid, Spain.

[READ MORE](#)



✳️ The Workshop “Citizen Scientists Shape the Future of Collaborative Research”, 3 October 2025, Vienna, Austria. An interactive workshop organised by the OeAD Centre for Citizen Science. The workshop brought together twelve citizen scientists, active in fields ranging from nature observation and archaeology to civic-good projects.

[READ MORE](#)

[VIEW ALL EVENTS AND UPDATES](#)



Funded by
the European Union

2nd Newsletter



RIECS
concept

Towards a pan-European Research
Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science



Building Together: Workshops Across Europe

* **The Workshop “Giving a Voice to Austrian Citizen Scientists”**, 3 October 2025, Vienna, Austria. Organised by OeAD’s Petra Siegele and Elisabeth Schauerermann.

[READ MORE](#)



* **The Workshop “Make a Wish: A Shared Infrastructure for Citizen Science in Europe”**, 10 October 2025, Vienna, Austria. During the session (led by Rosy Mondardini), the RIECS-Concept shared insights into its ongoing work to develop a concept for a more connected, inclusive, and accessible citizen science ecosystem in Europe. Hosted by ZSI and OeAD.

[READ MORE](#)

* **The Interactive Workshop “Shaping Tomorrow’s Citizen Science Research Infrastructure in Germany: A Co-Design Experience”**. Hosted by RIECS-Concept partner European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) at the PartWiss 25 Conference, 13 November 2025, Leipzig, Germany. Illustration: Stephanie Brittnacher.

[READ MORE](#)



#IICongrésCiènciaCiutadana

**2n Congrés de
Ciència Ciutadana**

17-18 NOVEMBRE · BARCELONA

* **The Workshop “Technological Challenges for a European Citizen Science Infrastructure**, 18 November 2025, Barcelona, Spain.

[READ MORE](#)

[VIEW ALL EVENTS AND UPDATES](#)

101188210
RIECS-Concept
HORIZON-INFRA-2024-DEV-01



Funded by
the European Union

2nd Newsletter



RIECS
concept

Towards a pan-European Research
Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science



Building Together: Workshops Across Europe

* [The International Workshop on Citizen Science in Education](#), 1 December 2025, online. The Workshop brings together European education experts to inform the project's future research infrastructure vision. Hosted by [OeAD Centre for Citizen Science](#).

[READ MORE](#)



* [The Workshop "Citizen Engagement in Climate Policymaking: Insights Feeding into the RIECS-Concept Vision"](#), 3 December 2025, Vilnius, Lithuania. Monika Mačiulienė participated in an ideas workshop hosted at the [Office of the Government of Lithuania](#).

[READ MORE](#)



What's Next at RIECS-Concept

The upcoming events:

- ✓ [ECSA2026 – International Scientific Conference](#), 4-6 March 2026, Oulu, Finland. Will serve as key opportunities to gather insights, test ideas, and deepen our network.
- ✓ Workshop at the 8th edition of [FOSS Backstage](#), on 16-17 March 2026, which will take place in Berlin, Germany.
- ✓ Participation in [FOR2026 – The Future of Open Research: Reliable, Responsible, Equitable](#), 4–6 May 2026, Munich, Germany.
- ✓ Open session at the [Regional Studies Association Annual Conference 2026](#), titled: ["Building Trustworthy, Sustainable and Collaborative Citizen Science Infrastructures: Regional Governance, Policy Integration and European Cooperation"](#), 15 June 2026, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- ✓ The CS Stakeholder Summit for 2026 at the [Ars Electronica Festival 2026](#) from 9th to 13th September, Linz, Austria.

[OUR WEBSITE](#)



RIECS
concept

**Towards a pan-European Research
Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science**



**DISCOVER MORE INSIGHTS AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US
ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

