



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 scientific existing 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.

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Six Months Strong: How RIECS-Concept is Laying the Groundwork for a Citizen Science Infrastructure in Europe

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

As we mark the first six months of RIECS-Concept, we look back with pride and forward with purpose. This preparatory phase has been all about building a strong foundation – a strategic start to what we envision as a lasting and impactful European Research Infrastructure for Excellent Citizen Science.

This has not been a quiet beginning. It has been dynamic, collaborative, and grounded in the conviction that citizen science deserves not just recognition but robust support, coordination, and sustainability.



A Launch That Set the Pace

✳️ The project began with an inspiring Kick-off Meeting, 30 January 2025, Brussels, Belgium, bringing together 13 partners from 8 countries.

✨ This diverse and highly motivated consortium began shaping the vision of RIECS-Concept: a shared, pan-European platform that elevates citizen science by fostering quality, inclusiveness, and institutional integration.

✅ In parallel, the RIECS-Concept project established the project's key governance structures – including the External Experts Advisory Board and the Ministries Advisory Board, July 2025. These bodies are crucial for ensuring that the future infrastructure reflects both scientific excellence and real-world policy relevance.

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Gaining Visibility & Building Momentum

* **The international Scientific conference
“Citizen Science: Bridging Theory and
Practice”**, 29 April 2025, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Moderated by Dr. Monika Mačiulienė
VILNIUS TECH

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* **8th International SCIENTIFIC
Conference “VISUALITY 2025: Social
Innovations for Sustainability
Communication”**, May 7-9 2025, Vilnius,
Lithuania.

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* **Regional Studies Association’s
Annual Conference 2025 (#RSA25)**, 6-9
May 2025, Porto, Portugal.

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Gaining Visibility & Building Momentum

* **“The International Conference for Advancing Participatory Sciences (CAPS)”**, 28 May 2025, Portland, USA – where **RIECS-Concept** led a dedicated symposium “Shaping Tomorrow’s Citizen Science Research Infrastructure”, fostering critical discussion around citizen science infrastructure.

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**CitSci
Helvetia’25**



* **“CitSciHelvetia”** – Swiss citizen science conference, 5-6 June 2025, Lausanne, Switzerland.

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* **53rd international scientific conference “NORDTEK: Green and Digital University Transformation”**, 11 June 2025, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Presentation: "Talking Sustainability So It Resonates: Segments, Participation, and the Role of Participatory Science" by Dr Monika Mačiulienė, VILNIUS TECH

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* **The EC Cluster Event “Advancing Public Engagement and Citizen Science in the European Research Area”**, 19 June 2025, Brussels, Belgium.

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Gaining Visibility & Building Momentum

✳ The inclusion of the RIECS-Concept project in the influential “Citizen Science for the Future of the EU” position paper as a featured initiative confirms the relevance of the project’s work in shaping Europe’s science and innovation agenda.

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✨ The academic paper “The Backbone of Participatory Sciences: Reframing Citizen Observatories as Research Infrastructures” was published on conceptual frameworks for research infrastructures in citizen science – a meaningful step toward positioning RIECS-Concept as a thought leader in this field.



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Delivering the Essentials

Behind the scenes, the RIECS-Concept project has been hard at work on the foundational documents that will guide its development. In just six months, the project has submitted six major deliverables on time, including:



**Project Management
Handbook**



**Stakeholder
Engagement Protocol**



Ethics Framework



Data Management Plan



**Dissemination,
Exploitation and
Communication Plan**



**Digital and Visual
Identity**

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Ready to Engage: 100+ Workshops Ahead

Perhaps the most exciting development is what lies ahead. RIECS-Concept is preparing more than 100 workshops across Europe in the coming months. These will take place across thematic, geographic, and community-based lines – from health and environment to digital transformation and youth engagement.

The upcoming events like:

✓ **"CitSci4Health"** – The Second Global Scientific Conference "Citizen Science for Health", 6–7 November 2025, Zurich, Switzerland.

✓ **"ECSA2026"** – International Scientific Conference, 4-6 March 2026, Oulu, Finland. Will serve as key opportunities to gather insights, test ideas, and deepen our network.



What's Next at RIECS-Concept

🕒 The first half of the year was about vision and structure.

🕒 The next phase is all about activation and co-creation. As the project moves forward, citizen science practitioners, institutions, and communities are invited to be part of the conversation.

🌟 Together, we can design an infrastructure that reflects the diversity, creativity, and democratic spirit of citizen science in Europe 🌟

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European
Citizen Science
Association



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